

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:23  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000  
PRICE OF NATURAL RUBBER  
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total quantum of natural rubber available in open market;
- (b) the present price of natural rubber in the open market;
- (c) whether the Government have taken effective steps for ensuring reasonable price of natural rubber;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have taken any steps for collection of natural rubber from open market; and
- (f) if so, the agencies which are collecting the natural rubber and details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) The opening stock of Natural Rubber on 1.4.1999 was 1,87,965 tonnes and the production of Natural Rubber during 1999-2000 is estimated at 6.25 lakh tonnes.
- (b) The price of natural rubber is ranging between Rs. 3100 - Rs.3200 per quintal during February 2000.
- (c)&(d): To ensure a remunerative price to rubber producers, Government of India through STC has made market intervention to procure Natural Rubber on Government account. The STC has already procured 29,427 MT of Natural Rubber till 1st February 2000. To enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber Government has imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999.
- (e) & (f): The natural rubber is being procured by the STC from RUBBER-MARK and RUBCO which are the apex bodies of Rubber Producers` Societies and private rubber dealers also.