

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4005
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
RUBBER CULTIVATION IN TRIBALS LAND
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

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

- (a) whether the Rubber Board has planned for rubber cultivation in tribals land in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the total hectares of tribals land brought under cultivation of rubber plantations and the total number of families benefited therefrom; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Rubber Board for the benefits of tribals in this scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An area of 1205.96 hectares of tribals land has been brought under rubber cultivation and 3306 tribal families have been benefited.

(c) Rubber Board has been implementing Rubber Plantation Development Scheme and Tribal Sub Plan scheme for the benefit of tribal people. Under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme financial assistance is provided for new planting as also free technical assistance to the tribal growers. Additional support is provided to the tribals under the Tribal Sub Plan Scheme for rubber cultivation. In addition, for effective monitoring, a separate project is being implemented by the Rubber Board in collaboration with the State Government of Kerala in the land already owned by the tribals. The tribal beneficiaries are engaged as wage earners in the plantation during the immature phase of the project and once the plantation enters tapping phase the plantation is handed back to the tribals after forming a Rubber Producers` Society and also establishing a latex collection centre/ processing centre.