

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:476
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
PRODUCTION OF NATURAL RUBBER
Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) the quantity of natural rubber produced in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the production of natural rubber is affected by the climate change;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation;
- (d) whether a National Body is proposed to be set up for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) Production of Natural Rubber (NR) during the last three years viz. 2005-06 to 2007-08 is as under:-

Production of Natural rubber

(in Tonnes)

State	2005-06	2006-07p	2007-08 p
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Kerala	739225	783275	753135
Tamil Nadu	23555	24020	23820
Tripura	16322	18705	20299
Karnataka	14940	16125	16545
Others	8583	10770	11546
Total	802625	852895	825345

p- Provisional.

The production projected for 2008-09 is 875,000 tonnes and the estimated production during April to September 2008 is 393,000 tonnes. Statistics of state-wise NR production during the current year are not available.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Climate change, especially unpredictable, irregular and deficient rainfall pattern adversely affects growth and productivity of natural rubber. Changes in the rainfall pattern trigger fungal infection of leaves, which adversely affects productivity. The steps taken to deal with the situation were

- (i) development of control measures for all diseases of rubber by the Rubber Research Institute of India under the Rubber Board. Wherever severe disease incidence occurs as a result of congenial weather conditions, the Board actively takes up campaign programmes to ensure that plant protection practices are followed by rubber growers,
- (ii) planting materials grown in root trainer cups with better root growth have been recommended for planting. Such plants by virtue of their better root growth have better tolerance to drought; and
- (iii) management practices for conserving soil moisture (eg. mulching plant basin), reducing heat and light load in young plants (eg. shading, intercropping with banana) etc. have been recommended to manage prolonged dry period in the field.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.