

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3694
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
CONDITION OF RUBBER PLANTATIONS WORKERS
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the socio-economic and health conditions of rubber plantations workers;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether such workers are suffering any type of communicable diseases;
- (d) if so, whether it had any impact on the rubber production in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Government has not taken up any separate study regarding the Socio-Economic and Health conditions of the workers in the Rubber Plantation Sector on an all India level. The Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry in collaboration with Rubber Board is conducting a study in 3 selected localities in Kerala in view of the outbreak of Chikungunya during 2007-08. As on date, there is no other proposal to conduct study on the Socio-Economic and Health conditions of the workers in the Rubber Plantations on an all India level.

(c) to (e): The Rubber Plantation workers are not specifically vulnerable to any type of communicable diseases. However, there was an outbreak of 'Chikungunya' disease in the State of Kerala in the year 2007-08. Rubber Plantation workers were also affected by the same. The spread of Chikungunya in 2007 had resulted in loss of a number of tapping days and the productivity per ha. of rubber plantation came down and the production came down to 7.53 Lakh MTs during 2007-08 from the previous year's 7.83 lakh MTs.

A number of measures have been taken up by the Rubber Board for aiding the workers and for prevention and eradication of Chikungunya disease. This included reimbursement of medical expenditure, organizing medical camps and awareness campaigns among growers and workers on prevention of the disease and a collaborative research project with Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry.