

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2409
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010
IMPORT DUTY ON NATURAL RUBBER
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any report from Rubber Board regarding the recent proposal for reducing import duty of natural rubber;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to appoint any committee to study the said proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the details regarding number of workers in rubber plantations, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a)to (d) : Yes, Madam. The Government constituted a panel of experts from the Rubber Board in compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, on the writ petitions filed by the various Rubber Industry Associations. After hearing representations of stakeholders relating to price control on natural rubber through reduction in import duty. The panel has submitted its report on which the Government is to pass an appropriate order in compliance of the Hon'ble High Court's order, keeping in view the interest of all the stakeholders.

(e) : Region-wise number of estimated workers in rubber plantations are as under:-

Region	Total workers#
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Kerala & Tamil Nadu	355,000
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NE region	44,000
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Outside NE region	18,000
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Total	417,000
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Including permanent and casual workers.