

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6139
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
RUBBER CULTIVATION
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Rathod Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to expand rubber cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the rubber farmers are getting any financial assistance and new technology for the promotion of rubber cultivation;
- (d) whether the Rubber Board has submitted any scheme for increasing the rubber cultivation in Kerala;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the demand for rubber has come down and if so, the steps taken to promote the demand of rubber in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. There are two schemes for expanding rubber cultivation in the country, namely, Rubber Plantation Development (RPD) and Rubber Development in North East (RDNE). The two schemes were implemented during the 11th Five Year Plan and proposed to be continued in the 12th Five Year Plan. The Rubber Plantation Development Scheme has components for promoting rubber cultivation in traditional region (Kerala and Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu) and non-traditional regions other than North East (mainly Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Odisha and West Bengal). The Scheme for Rubber Development in North East is focused on new planting of rubber in the North Eastern States.

(c): The Rubber Plantation Development Schemes provides financial support pfor planting of new rubber plants and technical assistance. Current rates of financial assistance are Rs.19,500 per ha (planting subsidy) in traditional regions and Rs.30,000 per ha (Rs. 22,000-planting subsidy; Rs 4,000 -planting material assistance; Rs 4,000- transportation grant) in non-traditional regions including North East. New technology in rubber cultivation mainly focuses on new high yielding varieties of planting materials and better agro-management practices. During 11th Plan, two new high yielding varieties of planting materials/ clones, namely, RR11 417 and RR11 422 were released. Developing and popularizing better agro-management practices for minimizing cost of production and maximizing production is a major focus of research and extension activities in natural rubber sector.

(d) & (e): Madam, as scope for new planting of rubber is limited in Kerala due to non-availability of suitable land, focus is on replanting of old senile plants. This will lead to higher productivity.

(f): No, Madam. Consumption of natural rubber in India has increased to 966,750 tonnes in 2011-12 as compared to 8,61,455 tonnes of consumption during 2007-08.