

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:933
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
PRODUCTIVITY OF NATURAL RUBBER
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the productivity of natural rubber in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the major factors affecting the rubber productivity in the country;
- (d) whether climate change has also any adverse impact on rubber productivity and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the productivity of natural rubber in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRI) under the Rubber Board regularly conducts studies pertaining to productivity of natural rubber plantations. The areas of studies undertaken by RRI, inter-alia relate to developing high yielding clones; genetic improvement through genetic diversity analysis and genome mapping; collection, conservation and utilization of domesticated and wild germplasm accessions, and studies on productivity augmenting agro- management practices. Experimental trials are undertaken to analyse the productivity of clones. Commercial yield of major clones realized in rubber plantations is also regularly evaluated.

(c): Quality of clones used, age of rubber plantations, weather conditions, agro-climatic factors and agro-management practices are the major factors affecting rubber productivity in the country. Price of rubber also influences productivity through its impact on harvesting intensity.

(d): Studies conducted by the RRI indicate that natural rubber (NR) productivity in Kerala could be adversely impacted to the extent of 4% to 7% while productivity in the North Eastern Region could go up by as much as 11% in the next decade if the present warming trend continues.

(e): Major steps taken by Government to enhance productivity of NR in the country include development and popularization of new high yielding varieties of planting materials; emphasis on group approach through Rubber Producers Societies (RPS); promotion of replanting of rubber through subsidy and provision of advisory services; and extension of rubber cultivation in North Eastern Region and Left Wing Extremism affected areas.