

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

ASEAN-INDIA FTA

5735. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that already negotiated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN has hurt the interests of some particular communities such as rubber plantations and palm oil production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the dairy sector in India will also face stiff competition from countries like New Zealand who have a very strong dairy sector and their economy thrives on the same in case the Government progress with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b):

(i) No, Madam. The India – ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement has not hurt rubber plantation. India has not offered any tariff concession on natural rubber (NR) to rubber producing countries under ASEAN-India FTA.

All the following traded forms of NR are under the Exclusion Lists of the agreements

- HS 400110: Natural Rubber Latex, whether or not pre-vulcanised
- HS 400121: Natural Rubber in Smoked Sheets (RSS)
- HS 400122: Technically Specified Natural Rubber (block rubber)
- HS 400129: Natural Rubber in other forms

(ii) In ASEAN FTA, palm oil has been kept as special product under reduction category and not in the elimination category.

(c) & (d) India is the leading producer of milk in the world and New Zealand is one of the largest exporter of Dairy products in the world. The Government takes into consideration stakeholder inputs including on the dairy sector while formulating India's position in RCEP negotiations.
