

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1478**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2023**

**REQUEST FOR INCREASING CUSTOMS AND IMPORT DUTY OF RUBBER**

**1478. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kerala sent letters to Ministry requesting to increase customs duty of compound rubber and import duty on all forms of dry natural rubber to at least 70 per cent as well as to fix minimum import price for natural rubber;
- (b) whether Kerala has also requested Centre to provide planting and replanting subsidies at 25 per cent of actual cost and financial assistance for raising State's financial support under Rubber Production Incentive Scheme from ₹170 to ₹250 per kilogram;
- (c) if so, details thereof and response thereto; and
- (d) whether Government will take initiatives to promote the use of rubber bitumen in road construction at national level?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

**(a) to (c)** Yes, In order to regulate the import of Natural Rubber, the Government had increased the duty on import of dry rubber to 25% or ₹30 per kg whichever is lower w.e.f. 30.04.2015, which is equal to the WTO bound rate. The Government had also reduced the period of utilization of imported dry rubber under advance licensing scheme from 18 months to 6 months from January, 2015. Port entry for import of Natural Rubber has been restricted to ports at Chennai and Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port) since January, 2016. Further, in the Union Budget 2023-24, the rate of custom duty on compound rubber has also been increased from 10% to 25% or ₹30 per kg whichever is lower (at par with Natural Rubber) to curb circumvention on duty.

Government of India through Rubber Board is implementing the scheme "Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector" for the development of natural rubber sector. Under the scheme, Rubber Board provides subsidy for new planting and replanting (of senile plantations) to growers. Rubber Board also provides quality planting material, promotes Rubber Producers Societies, sets up Group Processing Centres, provides training for tapping of rubber trees and processing of field latex, provides assistance for rain guarding to increase number of tapping days and provides assistance for prevention of diseases in rubber plantations. There is no proposal under consideration for increasing subsidies to 25% of actual cost or proposing financial assistance for State's Rubber Production Incentive Scheme.

**(d)** The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had issued a Circular dated 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 to State Governments, wherein it has been mentioned that Modified Bitumen inter-alia using Natural Rubber may be used in the wearing course.

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