

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2473
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2024

NATURAL RUBBER SECTOR

2473. ADV K. FRANCIS GEORGE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to rationalize the disbursement of replanting subsidy throughout the country, which at present is disbursed on a differential basis, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure Rs. 250 per kg as Minimum Support Price (MSP) for natural rubber to help the 1.2 million small and rubber farmers of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Planting and replanting assistance is provided as part of the Rubber Board's approved scheme 'Sustainable & Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector' for the period FY 23-24 to FY 25-26. Replanting assistance is provided at the same rates as planting assistance for the specific rubber growing regions/ areas. Replanting is envisaged mainly in traditional rubber growing areas viz. Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the assistance for replanting provided under the scheme is same across the traditional areas.

Under the above approved scheme, focus in Non-Traditional areas (states such as Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, etc.) and North East is on new planting, and hence the planting assistance provided to these areas is different from traditional areas taking into consideration various factors such as the relatively less developed rubber eco-system and cluster advantages, the differences in availability and costs of planting material, availability of nurseries and experience of growers in rubber cultivation, and the ability to realize revenue from senile plantations, as compared to traditional areas.

(b) & (c) Government of India, presently, fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries / Departments concerned and other relevant factors. Natural rubber is currently not included in the mandated crops for MSP.
