

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3520
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2024

RUBBER FARMING CRISIS

3520. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) the details of production of natural rubber produced in the country each of the year during the last decade, State-wise;
- (b) whether the production of natural rubber has decreased during the last few years;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any research or survey to assess the reasons for the low productivity of rubber plantations;
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to bring the rubber plantation back on track;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to mitigate the losses incurred by rubber farmers in Kerala, the State responsible for the majority of national rubber output; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) The details of state-wise and year-wise production of natural rubber in the country from the year 2014-15 to 2023-24 is attached as Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Production of natural rubber has grown consistently in the last few years, increasing from 7,15,000 tonnes in 2020-21 to 8,57,000 tonnes on 2023-24. The productivity of natural rubber has also increased during this period from 1442 kg/ha in 2020-21 to 1485 kg/ha in 2023-24. Government of India through Rubber Board is implementing the scheme “Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector” for the benefit of natural rubber sector. Under the scheme, Rubber Board provides financial/technical assistance inter alia for planting/re-planting of natural rubber, rain guarding, promotion of good agricultural practices and prevention of diseases in order to improve the productivity and production of natural rubber.

(e) & (f) The prices of natural rubber depend on demand and supply. International prices also influence domestic prices. The average price of natural rubber (RSS 4 grade) for the period January 2024 to October 2024 has been significantly higher than the average price of natural rubber (RSS 4 grade) for the same period in 2023. There is no information about any specific instances of losses incurred by rubber farmers. Further, the Government has approved enhanced outlays of Rs 708.69 Cr for the scheme of Rubber Board for the period 2024-25 to 2025-26.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3520 for answer on 17.12.2024.

Production of Natural Rubber (Tonne)								
Year	Kerala	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	Assam	Meghalaya	Karnataka	Other states	India
2014-15	507700	23785	47000	17310	8510	34560	6135	645000
2015-16	438630	19495	44245	14560	7360	29400	8310	562000
2016-17	540400	21140	50985	19970	8950	38800	10755	691000
2017-18	540775	21110	50500	23300	9050	38300	10965	694000
2018-19	492500	21500	52300	25200	9300	38900	11300	651000
2019-20	533500	21600	61950	30350	9350	41550	13700	712000
2020-21	519500	19710	73780	34130	9540	43860	14480	715000
2021-22	556600	21630	79730	39240	10840	49085	17875	775000
2022-23	599375	23120	89390	45120	11425	50330	20240	839000
2023-24	609600	23900	91500	46500	11775	52780	20945	857000

(Source: Rubber Board)
