

Need to revise Standard Input Output Norms (SION) for regulating duty free import of natural rubber-Laid

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I wish to bring to the attention of the Government towards the urgent need to revise the outdated SION Norms (standard Input Output Norms) governing the duty-free import of natural rubber. These norms, established in the 1970s, allow 44 kg of natural rubber per 100 kg of tyre production. However, the natural rubber content in tyres has drastically reduced to 18-20% today. Despite significant technological advancement, the norms have not been revised. As a result, more than double the necessary quantity of natural rubber is permitted for duty-free import, with only 50% of the imported rubber required to be exported. The remaining 50% is diverted to the domestic market, suppressing domestic rubber prices and causing severe financial distress to our rubber growers. Additionally, companies are making huge profits due to these outdated norms, further exacerbating the issue. The Rubber Board of India is mandated to conduct periodic reviews and update these norms, but no action has been taken in this regard. I urge the Government to direct the Rubber Board to immediately revise the SION Norms to reflect the current technological realities and protect the livelihood of natural rubber growers in the country.