

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
IMPORT OF NATURAL RUBBER
K. MURALEEDHARAN;PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have permitted the tyre manufacturers to import 30,000 tonnes of natural rubber; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) its likely impact on the prices of indigenous natural rubber;
- (d) whether rubber growers of various States including Kerala have urged the Government to ban the import of natural rubber;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (f) whether rubber growers have also urged the Union Government to fix/increase the floor price of rubber and to lift the stock of rubber from market; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) to (c) : No, Sir. After the Quantitative Restrictions have been removed since April, 2001, anybody can import natural rubber after paying the normal applicable customs duties. Permission for import has neither been given, nor is it necessary.
- (d) & (e): There have been requests from the rubber growers and Government of Kerala to ban the import of Natural Rubber. The ban on import of Natural Rubber against Advance Licences imposed by the Govt. on 20th February, 1999 is continuing.
- (f) & (g): The demand of rubber growers for fixing a minimum price for rubber has been examined and necessary action in this regard has been initiated.