

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2097
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
BENCHMARK PRICES OF NATURAL RUBBER
P.C. THOMAS

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

- (a) whether the government have notified the benchmark price of natural rubber in the official gazette when it was declared last;
- (b) if so, the date on which it was notified;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Hon`ble High Court has directed the Government to make such notification;
- (e) whether the Rubber Act also provides for such a step; and
- (f) if so, the effects of such notification?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) to (c) The Government of India notified the Bench Mark Price for Natural Rubber on 28.9.1998 through a Press Release.
- (d) to (f) The Hon`ble High Court had directed Government to issue an order as envisaged by section 13 of the Rubber Act, 1947. Section 13(1) of the Rubber Act indicates that `The Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, fix the maximum price or the minimum price or the maximum and minimum prices to be charged, in the course of a business of any class specified in the order, for rubber of any description so specified.` However, the practice of declaring minimum and / or maximum price has been discontinued since 1981 and Government has been declaring only Bench Mark Price since then. The revised Bench Mark Price was notified in September 1998.