

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:340  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006  
IMPORT OF RUBBER  
Chandrappan Shri C.K.

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

- (a) whether the production of rubber in the country is adequate to cater to the needs of the country;
- (b) if not, the quantity of rubber produced/imported in the country during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government has allowed duty free import of rubber;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the quantity of rubber imported during each of the last three years and thereafter, country-wise;
- (e) the reasons for permitting the duty free import of rubber; and
- (f) the likely impact of the duty free import of rubber on the prevailing price of rubber and the extent to which it would affect the interest of the rubber growers in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI KAMAL NATH )

(a): The production of natural rubber in the country is more or less adequate to meet the domestic demand. There is only a marginal shortfall.

(b) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 340 FOR ANSWER ON 14TH MARCH 2006 REGARDING 'IMPORT OF RUBBER'.

(b): the quantity of rubber produced & imported since 2002-03 are as follows:

(c): Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed duty free import of rubber for export production only to the Advance Licence holders, the 100% Export Oriented Units and the Special Economic Zone Units. Duty free import is quantitatively capped as it is based on the rubber content in the products exported and based on Standard Input and Output Norms notified by the Government.

Year	Production (tonnes)	Import (tonnes)	Export (tonnes)
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2002-03	649,435	26,217	55,311
2003-04	711,650	44,199	75,905
2004-05	749,665	68,718	46,169
2005-06 (up to November)	515,595	35,100	55,105

till 30th January 2006

(d): Country wise import figures of rubber for the last three years and thereafter including duty free import of rubber is given below:

(in tonnes)  
Country 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06  
(up to November 2005 only)

Indonesia 5125 6924 11758 13283

Malaysia	6646	21706	24986	7501
Myanmar	79	196	561	2008
Singapore	1164	248	435	1091
Sri Lanka	552	388	2331	522
Thailand	10575	12244	26613	8874
Vietnam	1447	1464	1702	1616
Others	629	1029	332	205
Total	26217	44199	68718	35100

(Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata)

(e): Duty free import of rubber is allowed only for export production.

(f): Since the duty free import of rubber is allowed under the export promotion scheme for export production only, there is no likely impact on the price of rubber or on rubber growers. At present the international price of natural rubber is higher than the equivalent grade of domestic rubber and there are exports of natural rubber also from India.