

(d) Import duty of dry forms of NR was raised from “20% or ₹20 per kg whichever is lower” to “20% or ₹30 per kg whichever is lower” in December 2013. The Government has formed an Expert Committee in June 2014 with the mandate to examine all aspects of consumption, production and trade of natural rubber and formulate a National Rubber Policy. The Government has increased planting subsidy from ₹19,500 per ha in the Eleventh Plan to ₹25,000 per ha in the Twelfth Plan in the traditional region and increased planting subsidy from ₹30,000 per ha in the Eleventh Plan to ₹35,000 per ha in the Twelfth Plan period in the non-traditional regions.

**Reduction in allocation of funds under ASIDE to Tamil Nadu**

1092. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds released to State of Tamil Nadu under the Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE) has been reduced from ₹67.27 crores in 2011-12 to ₹60.66 crores in 2013-2014; and

(b) if so, the reasons for reduction in allocation of funds under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, the allocation of funds to States/UTs of the approved annual budget under ASIDE Scheme is done as per criteria laid down under the guidelines of the scheme, which is based on an empirical formula where 75% weightage is given to the export performance of the last 4 years and remaining 25% to the population of the State. There was a reduction in the budget outlay to ASIDE Scheme for 2013-14 to ₹800 crore and therefore, allocation to Tamil Nadu got reduced from ₹67.27 crore to ₹60.66 crore.

**Joint official Panel to sort out trade related issues with China**

1093. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether India and China have set up a joint official Panel to sort out trade related issues;

(b) if so, the composition of members of the Panel and whether the Panel has since discussed the trade related disputes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and