

of energy, water, sanitation, infrastructure, IT and consultancy on the implementation.

8. Essel Group with Smart Grids-Platform Baden-Wuerttemberg to act as facilitator in linking the energy networks for Essel group.
9. Roots Group India and Neander Motors, Germany for transfer of technology and Joint Venture for production of a very high end latest technology, Twin Cranks, Diesel Engine with varied applications in Auto Marine Energy, etc. (0.6 million Euros).
10. iPLON with Welspun Renewables in the area of Green Energy Commitment.
11. Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) with KirowAdeltGmbH of Leipzig for manufacture of Railway Cranes.

Export of cumin

1077. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of Jeera (cumin) exports made in the last three years;
- (b) whether the prices of Jeera have risen abnormally in the markets recently, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for abnormal rise and the measures being taken by Government to keep the prices in control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The quantum of export of cumin from the country for the last three years are given below:

Year	Cumin export (Tons)
2011-12	45,500
2012-13	85,602
2013-14	1,21,500
2014-15 (*)	1,55,000

(*) Provisional Estimate.

(b) and (c) Price of Cumin has shown an increasing trend during the year 2014-15. The price in the domestic market increased from ₹ 109.38 per kg in April 2014 to ₹ 154.00 per kg in February 2015, registering an increase of more than 40%. Major reasons for increase in the domestic price of Cumin during 2014-15 are higher export demand and decline in production. Production of Cumin for the

year 2014-15 is less due to adverse weather conditions that prevailed in the major growing areas.

Several programmes for development and production of spices such as area expansion, Integrated Pest Management (IPM)/Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, creation of water resources, micro irrigation, post-harvest management etc. are implemented through State Horticulture Mission under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of Government of India. Spices Board has also established a Spice Park for Cumin at Jodhpur, Rajasthan with common processing facilities for cleaning, grading, grinding, packing, warehousing etc. for the benefit of Cumin farmers, traders and exporters in the region.

Natural rubber available in open market

1078. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of Natural Rubber available in open market;
- (b) the present price of Natural Rubber in the open market;
- (c) whether Government has taken effective steps for ensuring reasonable price of Natural Rubber; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Quantum of natural rubber (NR) available in the open market depends on prevailing stock with growers, dealers and processors and the proportion offered by them for sale at the current price. The stock of NR at the end of March 2015 was 240,000 tons. Quantity of NR available for sale after deducting stock with manufacturers and rubber under processing is 133,000 tons.

(b) Rubber Smoke Sheet RSS 4 and RSS 5 grades are the most commonly traded forms of natural rubber. Price of RSS 4 and RSS 5 at Kottayam market on 24 April, 2015 was ₹ 121.00 and ₹ 115.00 per kg respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government had increased the duty on import of dry rubber from “20% or ₹ 20 per kg whichever is lower” to “20% or ₹ 30 per kg whichever is lower” in December 2013. The duty has been further increased to 25% or ₹ 30 per kg whichever is lower *w.e.f.* 30.04.2015. The Government has also reduced the period of utilisation under advance licensing scheme for import of rubber from 18 months to 6 months. An ‘Expert Committee’ consisting of representatives from rubber