

consumption of Natural Rubber (NR) for the year 2015-16 are 580,000 tonnes and 1000,000 tonnes respectively, leaving a production-consumption balance of 420,000 tonnes. As per available statistics, import of NR during April-January, 2015-16 was 365,805 tonnes, while the estimated stock of NR at the end of January, 2016 was 242,000 tonnes.

(b) Representations have been received from the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association from time to time on the issues affecting the tyre industry. There is no ban on import of rubber. However, steps in form of periodical restrictions on fresh issue or renewal of further advance authorizations of imports or port restrictions have been taken with a view to augment demand for domestically produced NR. Given the fact that international prices of NR have fallen, the viability of tyre industry is dependent, *inter alia*, on the level of modernization of the industry, proportion and cost of imported vs domestically sourced raw material and the overall cost of production.

(c) Impacts of measures taken to regulate imports and promote exports are reviewed regularly by the Government in Line with its overall policy for promoting overall industrial growth. Protection is also available to the industry from unfair competition or surge in imports in form of anti-dumping and safeguards measures.

#### **Rejection of Indian products by USFDA**

660. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has rejected about 13,000 Indian products including patent medicines, generic drugs, bakery products, snacks etc., during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve the standard and quality adhering to the global market standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) According to Import Refusal Report data available on the US FDA website ([http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/import\\_refusals](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/import_refusals)), 11664 refusals of Indian products were recorded from January, 2011 to February, 2016.

The products from India which were refused entry included Medicine, Bakery Products, Fried snacks, spices, ground, mixed, Basmati Rice, fisheries Herbals & botanicals, Dietary Supplements, Hair Dyes and Colors, and other Bath Preparations. The reasons given for the refusals vary from problems in Misbranding, packaging, labelling, adulteration, pesticide, and unapproved etc.

(c) Among the steps taken by the Government include tightening labelling rules and making it mandatory for companies to clearly mention the dates of manufacturing, best before use and expiry dates improving pre-export inspection, greater emphasis on standards through sensitization of exporters for compliance of regulatory issues through export promotion agencies and also taking up the issue at bilateral trade forums wherever appropriate.

#### **Negative growth in exports**

661. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports in India showed negative growth consecutively in the last 13 months;

(b) if so, the month-wise details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a number of export incentive schemes for exporters during these days; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The month-wise details of India's exports for the last 13 months from January, 2015 to January, 2016 are as under:

<i>Value in US \$ Billion</i>			
Sl. No.	Month	2013-14	2014-15
		% Growth 2014-15 over 2013-14	
1.	January	26.89	24.39
2.	February	25.35	21.98
3.	March	30.34	24.03