

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 184
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022

PROMOTION OF RUBBER PLANTATION IN KERALA

184(H) DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) whether despite Kerala being the highest producer of natural rubber in the country, the steps being taken by Government of Kerala like increasing the subsidy for rubber plant replacement, training the rubber plantation labourers and announcing the support price, in a bid to arrest the declining production and productivity of rubber and the increasing financial losses to the rubber farmers of Kerala;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the above initiatives are not adequate for promotion of rubber plantation; and
- (c) whether the Central Government would consider constituting a commission/study team in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 184 FOR ANSWER ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022 REGARDING “PROMOTION OF RUBBER PLANTATION IN KERALA”.

(a) & (b) The Rubber Board under Department of Commerce provides subsidy for new planting and replanting (of senile plantations). Rubber Board also provides training for tapping of rubber trees and processing of field latex to sheet rubber. Further, the Rubber Board has taken several measures to improve productivity and reduce cost of production so as to enhance the net income of growers. Efforts to improve productivity involve promoting rain guarding to increase the number of tapping days, prevention of diseases and adoption of plantations lying untapped to revive tapping operations.

The Government of Kerala has been implementing “Rubber Production Incentive Scheme” for providing financial support to rubber growers through rubber producer societies under supervision of Rubber Board.

There is no fall in production and productivity in rubber plantations in Kerala. The production of natural rubber has increased from 4,92,500 tonnes in 2018-19 to 5,56,600 tonnes in 2021-22. Productivity has increased from 1549 kg/hectare to 1565 kg/hectare in the same period.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.
