

## **India Natural rubber consumption up by 5 pc in Apr-Aug**

Natural rubber consumption in the country rose by 5 per cent to 4.20 lakh tonnes in the first 5 months of 2012-13 fiscal. Its production rose marginally to about 3.14 lakh tonnes during the same period.

“Natural rubber consumption during April-August 2012 was 4,20,440 tonne with a growth of 4.9 per cent over the corresponding period in the previous year,” Rubber Board Chairman Sheela Thomas had said in Kottayam yesterday.

Production of natural rubber during April-August 2012 is estimated provisionally as 3,13,700 tonnes with a marginal increase of 0.8 per cent over the same period in the previous year, Thomas added.

“Production and consumption of rubber for the year 2012-13 are projected at 9,30,000 tonnes and 10,06,000 tonnes respectively with a deficit of 76,000 tonnes,” she said.

However, the Chairman added that there would not be any shortage of rubber in the domestic market in the current fiscal as the projected opening stock in April 2012 is 2,36,275 tonnes.

That apart, the rubber consuming industry has entitlement to import around 1,50,000 tonnes of natural rubber through duty free channels, Thomas said.

Quoting from the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) report, Thomas said natural rubber production in 2011 stood at 10.98 million tonnes, as against consumption of 10.92 million tonnes of the commodity during the period.

World natural rubber production during the first half of 2012 increased by 4.3 per cent, whereas consumption declined marginally by 0.7 per cent, she said.

On the future rubber prospects, Thomas said the report forecast world production and consumption at 11.33 million tonnes and 11.20 million

tonnes, respectively, with a surplus during the year 2012.

“World natural rubber production and consumption in 2013 would be 11.83 million tonnes and 11.68 million tonnes with a surplus of 1,51,000 tonnes,” she added.

India produced 9,03,700 tonnes of natural rubber and consumed 9,64,415 tonnes in the 2011-12 fiscal, Thomas said.

The rubber consumption in tyre sector increased by 5.7 per cent, whereas, the consumption in non-tyre sector declined by 4.9 per cent, she added.