

Quarts & Ounces

■ Industry Demands Duty Free Import of 2 Lakh Rubber



KOCHI The gap between production and consumption of natural rubber in the country would shoot up to 1,89,000 tonne in the current fiscal.

Taking into account this widening gap, the government should allow duty free import of 2 lakh tonne rubber this year, industry spokesmen said here. Interestingly, the industry's estimate of shortfall in production is at variance with that of the Rubber Board. The shortfall in production compared to consumption, projected by the Rubber Board, is 75,000 tonne for 2011-12. Similarly, the Rubber Board had projected an increase in the consumption from 8.62 lakh tonne to 9.02 lakh tonne. However, as per the tyre industry's estimate the consumption would go up to 10,80,565 tonne. Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) director general Rajiv Budhraja said the production of natural rubber saw a growth of just 1% in the last 4 years. However, the consumption of rubber in the country has seen a growth of 15% during the period. The industry spokesmen said the Rubber Board should rework its data on stocks. "We have taken up this issue with the Rubber Board and the response is positive," said All India Rubber Industries Association's (AIRIA) president Vinod T Simon.