

Rubber industry seeks removal of import duty

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The All India Rubber Industries Association, a not-for-profit making body serving the rubber industry, asked the centre to take urgent steps to increase natural rubber output and remove "inverted" duty structure.

"Inadequate availability of natural rubber and comparatively higher import duties on raw materials than on finished products (inverted duty structure) are impacting the competitiveness of the Rs 50,000 crore rubber industry in India," All India

Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) President Niraj Thakkar said. The local production is estimated at 9.50 lakh tonne per annum (tpa) as against the demand of 11 lakh tpa, Thakkar said, adding that the country imports 1,00,000 tonnes of rubber from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand.

The industry has also said that surge in cheap imported rubber products from China and other nations has hurt Indian manufacturers as many finished rubber products are imported at much lower rate of duty than that applied on raw materials.