

National Rubber Mission in offing to boost domestic production

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rubber Board on Thursday said it is finalising the contours of a national rubber mission in order to boost domestic production and reduce imports.

Currently, nearly 35 per cent of the domestic demand is met through imports.

"A National Rubber Mission is in the works to produce enough natural rubber within the country so as to meet the demands of domestic industry and minimise import," Rubber Board Executive Director K N Raghavan said while addressing the Managing Committee Meeting of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA). The proposed mis-



sion will target new rubber plantation in 5 lakh hectares of land by 2025-26 with the focus being on non-traditional areas, an official statement quoted Raghavan having said in the meeting.

Nearly 95,000 hectares have been identified for planting in

the current financial year, he added.

The tyre industry is all for verdant natural rubber plantation in the country for producing rubber that is qualitatively superior and competitively priced, said ATMA Chairman Satish Sharma.