

Tyre firms seek import of 4.7 lakh tonne duty-free rubber

FE BUREAU

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TYRE COMPANIES HAVE raised their pitch for duty-waived natural rubber import, quoting latest data on production projections from Rubber Board of India. They have sought zero-duty imports equivalent to the projected domestic deficit in natural rubber.

Natural rubber production-consump-

tion gap estimated for the current fiscal touches 4.7 lakh tonne as per the Rubber Board data. This is a historic high, says the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA). Urgent measures to make natural rubber available to the industry are warranted, making imports easier, the ATMA has demanded in a letter to the ministry of commerce. According to ATMA, from a shortfall of 60,000 tonne in 2011-12, the

gap ballooned to 4.1 lakh tonne in the last fiscal, which is projected to further grow to 4.7 lakh tonne in the current fiscal.

“Domestic natural rubber production is projected to be 40% short of domestic requirement during the current financial year. Such levels of shortfall are a matter of grave concern for the industry,” Rajiv Budhreja, director general, ATMA, wrote in the communique to the ministry.