

Unit-8

1) Describe the tapping, processing and uses of Para-rubber.

Ans.

Tapping → Latex is collected by tapping from the bark of trees by controlled wounding of the bark and thus induces the release of latex. Deep cuts are made on bark extending to half the circumference of the tree and the cut slope down to the right. At the lower end of the vertical groove, an iron or zinc spout is fixed. The latex is then collected in a half coconut shell or small container placed below the spout. Tapping should be done in the early morning and it stops after 2-3 hours. It can be done throughout the year except during winter and monsoon. Commonly a tree can be tapped economically for 25-30 years. Number of tapping days in a year varies from 240-300.

Processing → After reaching the factory, impurities are removed by sieving and rubber content is estimated. The latex is then standardized by adding water and

sieving is done again. The latex is then poured into either in big tank or into aluminium tray. Acetic acid or formic acid of standard ~~stander~~ strength is added to the latex so as to coagulate it into a soft mass of white colour. The white mass of rubber is then washed in running water and pressed between smooth rollers to remove excess water and to produce a rubber sheet. The sheets are then passed through groove making rollers. The wet sheets are initially kept under shade for drying and then taken to the smoke house for thorough drying for 4-5 days at 43°C - 60°C. The sheets are then transported to the manufacturers.

Uses → Rubber is used in the manufacture of wide variety of products for different industries and domestic purposes —

- i) About 75% of ~~produce~~ is used for tyres, tubes of cycles and automobiles.
- ii) About 6% is used in footwear industry.
- iii) About 4% is used in wire and

cable insulation.

ii) Rubber is also used in the following purposes -
washers, gaskets, sports goods, hot-water bags, erasers, barrels of fountain, sockets, motor mountings for absorbing vibrations and socks etc.