

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Government policy to support agriculture sector -laid.

**SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY):** Due to the current COVID pandemic situation, there has been a dip in all the agricultural sectors including rubber and spices. This in turn has financially affected lakhs of farmers. The main reason for the price drop is the import policy. The quality of Indian rubber and spices, especially from Kerala, is of international standards. But the quality of imported rubber and spices is not upto the mark. In a country like India, where agriculture is the main economic backbone, we should help the farmers by amending the import policy and increasing the import duty.

The minimum support price should be revised and also if the market price falls below the minimum support price, the Government should procure the goods from the farmers at this minimum support price.