

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding price fluctuations of agricultural crops etc.

**SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR):** The fall in price of agricultural crops has become a usual phenomenon in the country and as a result poor farmers are affected very badly. The fluctuations coming in the price mechanism of various cash crops, foodgrains and agricultural products leave a majority of farmers into a miserable economic insecurity. As the primary factor and producer of an economic chain, the farmers deserve a justifiable price when they have to sell the commodities. The price of black pepper in 2016-2017 was Rs 694 per kg and it got reduced to Rs. 488 per kg. The cardamom was Rs 2908 per kg in 2019-20 and now it came down to Rs 1478 per kg. Banana was Rs 60-70 per kg in 2017 and now it came down to Rs. 40-45 per kg. The situation is the same for many cash crops like rubber and coconut. The producer gets very small amount of the actual price that a customer pays for the product.

The rapid changes and continuous fall of price eventually lead the producer households into economic insecurity where they will be compelled to either borrow money from insecure sources or give up farming. As this is a matter of food security of the country, welfare and economic system, the GOI should have a proper support price mechanism in the country. I kindly request the Government to initiate an appropriate mechanism to support our farmers.