

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding grant of minimum support price to natural rubber and cardamom.

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Respected Sir, since the inception of 17th Lok Sabha I have been attempting to draw the attention of the Government on depressing trends in the price of agricultural products like natural rubber, cardamom, pepper, etc.

Now, the market has recorded a sudden drop in rubber and cardamom prices. This has arisen at such time when the small and marginal farmers looked forward to a steady market during the Christmas festival season. The rubber farmers were making it even with prices staying steady around Rs. 250 per kg, but it has now dropped to a low of Rs. 150 per kg.

The Cardamom farmers are also going through the same situation. Presently, the price of Cardamom is below Rs. 800 per kg in the local market, and it touched Rs. 7000 per kg in August 2019. The major reason for this being the case is the low demand for natural rubber and Cardamom in the domestic market, as well as the unconditional import of these items from ASEAN countries.

The production costs, including labour, fertilizers, etc., have increased heavily in the last few years. If the low-price situation continues, the farmers will be compelled to stop its cultivation, which will affect the agrarian economy of Kerala.

Hence, it is important to provide a minimum support price for natural rubber and Cardamom. I urge the Government to announce an MSP of Rs. 250 per kg for Rubber and Rs. 2000 per kg for Cardamom.