

Need to control prices of natural rubber

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Honourable Chairman, Sir, I would like to address a serious concern that affects the livelihood of numerous rubber farmers in our country. There are reports indicating that the Government is considering implementing a maximum price limit or slab for natural rubber, which will have far-reaching and devastating consequences for the farmers who depend on it for their survival. It is also learned that rubber cultivation is crucial to the economy of several states, especially in Kerala where many small and marginal farmers rely on it for their livelihood. These farmers already struggle with fluctuating market prices and increasing production costs. It is important to note that, up to this point, there has been no Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rubber in India. Instead of imposing a maximum price slab, the Government should focus on establishing a fair and remunerative Minimum Support Price for rubber. This would provide farmers with a guaranteed income and protect them from market fluctuations.

I urge the Government to reconsider implementing a maximum price and to engage with stakeholders, including farmer associations and industry experts, to develop a solution that supports the interests of our rubber farmers.

Thank you.