

**Title:** Need to review liberalised import of agricultural products with a view to safeguard the interests of farmers particularly in Kerala.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): The liberalised import of various agricultural products after the opening of the country's economy to the world market has distracted the economy of Kerala State. The crisis has been deepened by the price crash of rubber, coconut and coconut products, areca nuts, pepper, etc. due to the indiscriminate imports of these products. The copra procurement, despite efforts taken by the Union Government, could not make any effect in the market. The farmers of both food crops and commercial crops in Kerala are in much difficulties to earn their livelihood. Most of the farmers are also finding it very difficult to repay the loans availed by them from banks and other financial institutions.

I, therefore, request the Government to implement the following suggestions to tackle the financial difficulties of the farmers:

1. Increase the import duty of rubber, coffee, tea, pepper, coconut and its products;
2. Promote exports of rubber by giving subsidy to farmer forums; and
3. Stop the recovery of all loans availed by the farmers from nationalised banks and other commercial institutions till the improvement of financial position of the farmers.