

Title: Demand to protect the interests of the rubber growers in the country.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Sir, this is with regard to problems being faced by rubber growers.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that there is a serious move by the Government of India to lift restriction to import the natural rubber. There is a false propaganda about STC that it is not in a position to provide sufficient quantity of rubber to rubber industries in this country. The agency like CAPEXIL wants permission to import all kinds of natural rubber of all grades.

I would plead to the Government of India that under no circumstances the restriction on import of natural rubber should be lifted. The hon. House might be aware that about ten lakh rubber growers and their families have been suffering due to the unstable and low price of rubber. There is a lot of pressure on the Central Government to lift restrictions on import of natural rubber. This is totally unjustified.

Therefore, I once again request the hon. Minister of Commerce, Government of India to protect the interests of the rubber growers in this country.