

Title: Need to send an Expert Committee to Kerala and to solve the problems faced by the rubber, tea and coffee growers in the State.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the serious problems faced by the agricultural plantations in Kerala especially rubber, tea and coffee plantations. I agree that the price of rubber is slightly improved but the situation in tea and coffee plantations is very pathetic. These plantations are not even getting back their production cost. The Central Government has not yet taken any measures to get a fair price to these produces.

It is reported that the owners of coffee plantations are abandoning the plantations. Tea plantations are facing closure from the owners. Among the total plantations in the country, 45 per cent are in Kerala. In my constituency, Cannanore, a good percentage of Wayanad regions are filled with coffee and tea plantations. A very large number of people are working in this sector.

The hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri Arun Jaitely, made a promise in the Rajya Sabha in December last year that an Expert Committee will visit the tea plantations. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Abdullakutty, please conclude now. One thing, you cannot read in the House during the 'Zero Hour'. You have to only say whatever you want to say.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Sir, I request through you to the Government that an Expert Committee should visit the tea plantations.