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Title: Problems being faced by the rubber growers in the country.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, to limit the arbitrary import of natural rubber, the previous Government had made an order that the import should be limited to only two ports, that is, Kolkata and Vizag. Now, a new order has been passed by the Ministry of Commerce to the effect that this shall be free from all ports. If the import is made through all the ports, it will affect, not only the quantity but also quality. Just like pepper and some other products are coming from various ports, natural rubber will also start pouring into India. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister and the Government to take urgent steps to revive the earlier decision of the Ministry of Commerce to the effect that the import should be limited to only two ports, namely, Kolkata and Vizag.

Export of rubber is also facing a problem, that has been encouraged by the previous Government and about 70,000 tonnes has been exported. It is contrary to any previous export. This was done by giving a small subsidy for export. Now, that period is over and the present Government has to take a decision on extending this facility further. I would request the Commerce Ministry to take action on this matter also.

MR. SPEAKER: All the Members are requested to be brief.