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Title: Regarding review of reduction in import duty on rutile grade Titanium Dioxide pigments.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): I would like to bring to the notice of the House, a very important matter. Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, KMMML and Travancore Titanium Products, TTP, fully owned public sector undertakings of Kerala Government are together producing about 66,000 metric tonnes of rutile grade Titanium Dioxide pigment annually. The two companies are adversely affected due to import of low priced rutile grade pigment from countries where MNCs are having manufacturing facilities. Due to this import, domestic price has come to a level lower than the domestic production cost which has adversely affected the marketing of Titanium Dioxide pigment by Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited. In the Budget, the import duty has been reduced to ten per cent which will further aggravate the position and the above said Kerala State Government undertakings will find it difficult to survive. I, therefore, urge the Government to reconsider the import duty reduction on rutile grade Titanium Dioxide pigments.