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Title: Need to establish a Common Facilitation Centre for farmers cultivating Rubber at Devarappali and a Rubber Research Institute in Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (RAJAHMUNDRY): The Rubber Plantation drive took place from early 1985 in my Constituency i.e. Rajahmundry. During 2009, the rubber yielding was 40 tonnes from 75 hectares of land and last year the production was 55 tonnes from 98 hectares. The existing Rubber Board office in Rampachodavaram is procuring the natural Rubber in the form of smoked sheets and the buyers are from out of the State only as there is no single small scale industry working on Rubber in this region.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take some urgent steps for the development of Rubber plantation and industry in the Region. There is an urgent need to establish a "Common Facilitation Centre" (CFC) at Devarapalli nearby Ramapachodavaram, for registering all the Rubber crop farmers, price fixation as per the demand from the CFC and to carry out marketing activities by farmers through CFC, which will be under the control of Rubber Board, Government of India.

As the climatic condition of this region is friendly for Rubber crop, there is need to establish a Rubber Research Institute in Rajahmundry for developing new breeds of crop for high-yielding and there is also a need to establish one Educational Institute on Rubber technology under the aegis of Central Government to meet the requirement of skilled manpower.

I would also like to request through this august House that there is an urgent need to provide tax sops for the development of the industry for creating Rubber City near Rajahmundry to create employment opportunities and to provide benefit to the farmers in long run especially to the primitive Tribes who are cultivating Rubber.