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Title: Need to take suitable measures to check decline in price of domestic rubber in the country.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): The Indian rubber market is on the decline over the past two years. From Rs. 240 per kg in April 2011 it has come down to Rs. 144 in May 2014. Such drastic fall in the price by more than 60% has made the crop economically unviable.

The main reason for the fall in rubber price is excessive imports without taking into account the supply-demand gap. While the country has produced 8.07 lakh mt tonnes of rubber during 2013 the consumption was 9.55 lakh Mt tonnes leaving a gap of 1.48 mt tonnes. Instead of bridging the gap by imports, the actual imported quantity was 3.00 lakh Mt tonnes leaving a surplus supply of 1.52 Mt tonnes. So import restrictions form the crux of the issue.

No import of rubber during peak rubber production season (September- January) is to be allowed. The number of discharge ports to be limited so that buyers may be tempted to utilize more domestic rubber. 100 percent inspection has to be carried out to avoid import of inferior quality at lesser price. A monitoring mechanism to avoid excess imports is to be created. Price stabilization scheme for rubber may be implemented by Government of India. For this purpose a corpus fund of Rs 1000 crore may be created.

I urge the Govt. to consider the above suggestions and take immediate steps to provide support to the rubber farmers.