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Title: Need to increase import duty on rubber.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I would like to raise an important and a very serious issue. It is regarding the import policy of Government. Since Government has imported rubber from foreign country without any assessment of the domestic production, it has adversely affected the prices of rubber in India especially in Kerala. Last year, the price of a rubber for one kilo was Rs. 330/- and now it has been reduced to Rs. 130/- per kg. It means there is a decline of Rs 100 per Kg of rubber. In Kerala about 90% of rubber growing farmers are marginal farmers. The decline in the prices of rubber has directly affected the livelihood of these farmers and also their existence. There should be some mechanism to control the import of rubber, especially when there is sufficient production of rubber in our country. Another important issue is to increase the import tariff on rubber. Since these measures have not been taken by the Government, the prices of rubber are still going down.

So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the import duty on rubber and also take other remedial steps in this regard.