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Title: Regarding problems being faced by the cardamom growers in Kerala and other parts of the country.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): Thank you Madam, for letting me to raise an important issue regarding the life of the farmers in my constituency.

Madam, the small Indian Cardamom farmers are facing acute crisis due to the fall of its market price. Earlier the Cardamom was under the Cardamom Board which has now been abolished and it is now under the jurisdiction of the Spices Board. The Spices Board is being entrusted with the development of Cardamom in my constituency. But, unfortunately, the Spices Board is now shifting the entire office from Idukki. Madam, 90 per cent of the Cardamom is being grown in Idukki district. All the field officers are being shifted to some other parts of the nation where no Cardamom is being grown there and because of this the developmental activities are not being carried out. The Price of the Cardamom is being coming down. Earlier we were getting Rs.1800 per Kg. for Cardamom but now we are getting only Rs.500 per Kg. This is much below the production cost of the Cardamom. At least Rs.750 should be the price of the Cardamom so as to meet the production cost. We are not getting that much money. Almost Rs.3500 crore is being lost to the farmers of my constituency because of this sudden fall in the Cardamom price.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter by taking steps to retain the responsibility of marketing the Cardamom with the Kochi office of the Spices Board and also announce Minimum Support Price 50 per cent above the cost of production thereby save the interest and the lives of the poor Cardamom farmers in my constituency. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Adv. Joice George.