

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to impose restrictions on import of spices.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): The price of the black pepper has been decreased due to indiscriminate import of inferior quality black pepper from Vietnam through Sri Lanka and the fluctuations in the price in the future trading. Low productivity attributed to many reasons is a major threat for the pepper cultivation. This problem is also faced by cardamom, coffee and tea farmers too. Unless the government ensures fair price for the spices, it may lead to distress in the sector and end up in causalities like suicides. The Government should take steps to prevent the indiscriminate import of spices through Sri Lanka and other countries which are parties to Asian and other trade agreements without paying duties. The Government should enforce the regulations and impose restrictions in importing of spices by tightening the checking mechanism in all ports. Government should also make use of the new tax regime under GST to curb the sale of imported spices.

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