

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to spend 10% of tax amount collected from rubber sector for welfare of rubber growers.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I draw the kind attention of this august House to the problems faced by the rubber growers in the country. The growers of natural rubber in the country are facing acute financial crisis due to the declining returns from their produce owing to large scale import. Although the rubber sector is a lucrative business for the industries, the prices of raw material are declining and the profits are spiralling. The Government is also collecting a large amount of money as tax from the rubber sector. The alarming fact is that the growers of rubber are in a state of financial crisis.

Therefore, I request the Government to support the rubber growers in the country by regulating the import of rubber and allocating 10 per cent of the tax amount collected from the rubber sector for the welfare of the rubber growers and for the revival of the rubber cultivation in the country.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. P. K. Biju, Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher, Adv. Joice George and Shri M. B. Rajesh are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anto Antony.