

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to protect interests of small and marginal farmers of Kerala from the possible repercussions of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): The Centre plans to enter into trade agreement with the ten ASEAN nations and the countries of China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to form the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In the light of this development, I would like to seek the intervention of the Government to address the possible repercussions of RCEP on the small and marginal farmers in the State of Kerala.

The plantation sector in the State of Kerala is already going through a crisis due to impact of various trade agreements. It is now feared that cheap imports of cash crops, milk products, rubber and tea will further aggravate the situation of the farmers. Especially, the small and marginal farmers engaged in the dairy industry will be hurt by the pressure of global competition. The dairy sector in Kerala is unique because it highly depends on the neighbouring States for all the cattle rearing inputs. This eventually translates into high production cost, making it tough for the sector to fight the cheap imports from other countries. The Centre must consider the impact that RCEP would have on various agro-based sectors by consulting the State Governments in order to protect the interests of farmers in the country.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 14th March, 2018 at 11a.m.

12 09 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 / Phalguna 23, 1939 (Saka).*

