

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding repealing of the Rubber Act, 1947-laid

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): This is to express my apprehensions regarding the Government's moves to repeal the Rubber Act, 1947, and to introduce the Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill 2022. The repealing of the Rubber Act and the introduction of a new bill in its place is a deliberate attempt to cripple the Rubber Board by stripping off its powers and also to wipe out the rubber cultivation from the country.

At present, fixing the standard, prices, and testing the quality of natural rubber are the responsibilities vested within the Rubber Board. Moreover, the import of natural rubber should also be in accordance with the recommendations of the Board. However, the new Bill seeks to strip off all the powers of the Rubber Board in this regard. This raises concerns among 11.5 lakh rubber growers in the country. Hence, on behalf of the rubber growers in the country, I request the Government to kindly withdraw the moves to repeal the Rubber Act, 1947, and to introduce the Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill 2022. Instead of repealing the Rubber Act, enhancing its scope is the need of the hour.