

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding amendment of the Rubber Act -laid.

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SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA) : I take this opportunity to share my apprehensions regarding the media reports about the Government's move to amend the Rubber Act. The intention of the amendment is to make the Act more business-friendly by increasing the level of ease of doing business. Thus, the proposed amendment aims at making the Rubber Act compatible with the interests of dealers, processors and manufacturers. The amendment seeks to eliminate rubber cultivation in the country and wreak havoc on the livelihood of crores of people. For instance, there is a provision in the proposed amendment to expand the scope of 'research' by including Synthetic and Reclaimed Rubber in addition to Natural Rubber. On the one hand, the Government is rolling back various schemes and curtailing the funds for the cultivation of Natural Rubber. On the other hand, the Government is trying to promote Synthetic and Reclaimed Rubber by amending the Rubber Act.