

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding utility of existing Free Trade Agreements.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ (TUMKUR): Sir, amidst much speculations and apprehensions that India may sign up the RGEP compromising the interests of domestic sectors in agriculture and dairying, to much relief, our Government has opted out of the RCEP deal, at the last stage.

The agriculture and dairying sectors had harboured much apprehensions about India failing in line with other nations in the ASEAN group to sign the RCEP deal. The farming and animal husbandry sector stand to benefit much from India opting out of the RCEP. As a plantation farmer myself, by vocation, I have been taking up the cause of domestic farming sector, which is getting unsettled by cheap plantation produce flooding Indian markets from neighbouring countries under FTAs.

To safeguard the interests of domestic arecanut and coconut plantation sectors from the threat of cheap imports of arecanut and desiccated coconut produce routed through Sri Lanka under FTAs, India should revisit and review the utility of the existing FTAs.

माननीय सभापति: श्री राहुल कस्वां – उपस्थित नहीं ।