

Need to introduce subsidies in rubber industry in Idukki Parliamentary Constituency - laid

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Rubber has emerged as a dominant cash crop in many regions in the country, especially in the high-range of Kerala. This is a very important economic factor in the lives of many people who live in my constituency, Idukki. However, many policies of the Government as well as international market situations have led to a fall in the rubber prices in the past. This has severe implications in the long-term growth of our country. This is because Rubber is a very important ingredient in many consumer products and also Industrial process. If rubber cultivation is not remunerative, many farmers will be forced to shift their cultivation away from it. This will lead to severe shortages in domestic market and also an unhealthy dependence on foreign economies. Hence, the policy of low import duties to rubber imported from abroad is actually not in the interest of the country. The Government should introduce subsidies so that price of rubber is raised to INR 300 per kilogram in the domestic market and also import duties must be adjusted to achieve this price. I urge upon the Government to do the needful so that this price is achieved at the earliest.