

**Regarding fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rubber at Rs. 250/- per kg
? laid**

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): I want raise the issues faced by farmers. Rubber producers in Kerala do not get adequate price for their product vis-à-vis cost production. Several times in the past, I had raised the issue of declaring rubber an agricultural produce. Raw Jute which is similar to natural rubber, is a agricultural product which is used for industrial purposes and jute growers are getting Minimum Support Price as declared by the Union Government. In the same manner, natural rubber should also be declared as an agricultural produce which will benefit around 10 lakhs rubber growers. As per the MS Swaminathan Commission Report, the rubber should get at least 1.5 times of the cost of production. The cost of production per kg is 172 Rs/kg, however, the rubber growers are getting below 100 Rs/kg. I urge upon the Government to fix the Minimum Support Price of rubber at Rs 250/kg.

14.34 hrs