

Title: Demanded an early implementation of the Prime Minister's assurance to increase the rate of procurement price of rubber and coconut in the state of Kerala.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, when the hon. Prime Minister was in Kumarakom in Kerala for some days, he had given a package with regard to some of the major matters relating to Kerala. One of them was regarding the agricultural crops. With regard to rubber, he had agreed that rubber would be procured at a price higher than the prevailing price. Now the prevailing price has come down steeply. The earlier price, which was Rs.60 per kilo, has come down to Rs.22 per kilo. Now the farmer cannot sustain it at all. The Prime Minister's assurance should be taken up and implemented immediately. Because the price declared by the Government of India is Rs.34.05 per kilo, so, at least that price has to be given. For export also, some kind of assistance should be given.

With regard to the other agricultural crops, the Prime minister had assured that coconut also would be procured at a higher price, but nothing has been done in this regard. At least, the Cabinet should take up the issue of assurance given by the Prime Minister separately, and they should act upon it immediately.