

Title: Need to withdraw ten per cent reduction in import duty on agricultural products and oils.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the recently declared import duty reduction which will affect the prices of cash crops of Kerala seriously. The Central Government, in the Budget 2001-2002, has increased the import duty to 75 per cent but subsequently, ten per cent has been reduced from that 75 per cent. This provoked the agrarian community of Kerala. I recall the protest made on 1st August, 2001 by MPs of Kerala in the House. They lodged their protest with the Prime Minister and requested to restore the old percentage. The situation has further aggravated by the Railways materialising the agreement with Malaysian Government for Rs. 180 crore in exchange of palm oil with the Government of Malaysia.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the recently declared import duty reduction on agricultural products and oils.