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Title: Reported decline in the price of Rubber.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, the price of rubber has fallen down sharply. The running price was Rs.142 per kilogram. Now, it has gone down to Rs.60 per kilogram. Since Kerala is the major rubber-producing State, it has affected the economy of Kerala in a big way. About 95 per cent of the producers are small farmers having between 2 acres and 8 acres. The internal production and consumption of rubber in our country is almost balanced. The production projection for the year 2008-09 is 8, 75,000 tonne and the consumption projection is 8,99,000 tonne. So, it is almost balanced. My request is that the Government should urgently intervene to stabilize the price of rubber. At any rate, no rubber should be imported. The import should be completely banned for the time being. Also, duty-free import should be suspended. I would also request the Government that immediate port restrictions should be effected. So, these three measures will help stabilize the price of rubber. This is a major issue. I would request the Government to urgently intervene and restore the confidence of the farmers....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, we all associate with it.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): I associate with it....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. MOHAN : I associate with it....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. friends from Kerala and Tamil Nadu associate with it. Whoever is interested in it associates with it.

Next, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur. Let us hear the young Member.