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Title: Need to review and revoke the decision to import natural rubber into the country.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): I express the concerns and apprehensions of the domestic rubber plantation sector, over the Centre's move to allow import of natural rubber at much reduced duty slab. The move will become counter-productive and also against the stand to protect the domestic rubber farmers.

The rubber plantation sector in Kerala, comprising small and marginal farmers accounts for a major share of India's natural rubber output.

This move to allow import of natural rubber will have far-reaching adverse impact on the on-going stabilization process for the domestic rubber plantation sector, after a long and bleak period of unremunerative prices. The rubber plantation sector is now settling down with fair prices ruling the market, thereby recouping their past losses and clearing their debts incurred over the period of depression. The rubber industry lobby is also unhappy with the present ceiling of imports at reduced tariff. As they claim this will cover their inventories only for a fortnight. I would urge the Centre to review and revoke decisions of future imports of natural rubber, on ad-hoc basis.

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अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप लोग अपनी सीट पर जाकर बैठ जाइये, आप लोग जोर से बोलना बंद कीजिए, अपनी सीट पर जाइये।

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not do it like that. Just put it down. Go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

**12.06 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

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**14.00 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha in the Chair)*

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister Shri Ajay Maken to make a Statement.

**14.00 hrs.**

*At this stage, Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*

...(Interruptions)

**14.0½ hrs.**

*At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the Statement of the Minister will go on record.

*(Interruptions) अँ! \**