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Title: Need to set up a Rubber Research Institute in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI): In Kulasekaram, in Tamil Nadu thousand hectares of Rubber trees are grown and rubber is harvested in large scale every day. The majority of population in Kanyakumari district is depending on rubber related occupation. Research and Development in these areas will improve the socio-economic status of the people. In Kanyakumari, 19,233 hectares rubber plantations are available which produce 24,020 tonnes of rubber annually. There are 65 numbers of large growers and 570 numbers of small growers in Kanyakumari district. In my district, the largest producer is Arasu (Government) Rubber Corporation. It provides direct employment to around 2000 people and indirect employment to around 2000 people. In order to increase the quality and growth of Rubber, an institution for rubber research is very much needed in my Constituency. Tamil Nadu Rubber Research Institute will be of much help and assistance to the rubber growers. It will contribute manifold in increasing the productivity of Rubber in Tamil Nadu.