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Title: Need to establish Carbon Exchange Market for plantation keeping in view protection of environment.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising an urgent matter of public importance by requesting the Government to introduce a Bill to establish a Carbon Exchange Market.

India has led the global climate change initiative and also benefited from the Clean Development Mechanism projects. But it does not have a single Carbon Exchange Market operating in the country. Rapid industrialization should not put our prosperity in doom. Climate change could adversely affect the livelihoods of poor farmers who rely on agriculture. Agriculture contributes a meagre 14 per cent of our national income. But it provides employment to nearly 60 per cent of the Indian population. Is it not our responsibility to support these poor farmers? Is it not our responsibility to make our motherland safe for our kinds?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want from the Government? You tell your demand.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY : My request is that the Government should introduce a Bill for the establishment of a Carbon Exchange Market. It should immediately provide base and capital support and incentivize the industry to take advantage of these markets. It will provide a great relief to the small and marginal farmers for their contribution in sequestering the carbon from the environment. So far India has been trading carbon through the international markets and does not have a domestic Carbon Exchange Market.

Therefore, I would again plead with the Government to introduce a Bill to establish a domestic Carbon Exchange Market for plantation using its forward industrial linkage. This would be a pioneering initiative, which would help the country to lead the global initiative on Climate Change. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Sir, I also want to associate myself with the issue raised by Mr. Anto Antony.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you send a slip at the Table. Your name will be associated on this issue.