

an>

Title: Need to take suitable measures to check the declining price of natural rubber in the domestic market.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I request the Government to kindly stop the import of natural rubber under Open General Licence (OGL). There has been a huge influx of natural rubber from foreign markets to India during the last three years. Three years back the volume of imported natural rubber was 50,000 tonnes and now the figure in this regard reached an all time high of 325190 tonnes. It is to be noted that India has a stock of 240000 tonnes of natural rubber. In addition to that domestic production also surged 28.3 percent last month. Despite the bumper production and excess stock of natural rubber in India, its import has been steadily increasing in the country during the last few years. As a result price of natural rubber in domestic market is declining day by day. For instance price of RSS-4 grade of natural rubber in domestic market in last week was Rs 138 per kg., but today it came down to Rs. 136 per kg. Sharp decline in the prices of natural rubber will adversely affect Kerala economy as the State accounts for 90 per cent of natural rubber production in the country. Therefore, I request the Government to take urgent steps in this regard.