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Title: Need to control import of rubber in the country.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): The price of local natural rubber fell below Rs. 130 a kg. for the first time since 2009. There is panic in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala's growing areas as the price is likely to fall further. In most small and medium-sized plantations, tapping is not taking place, as wages and other expenses are much higher than returns, according to growers. The persistent fall in the price of natural rubber has caused concern among rubber farmers. The local market is facing a slump in demand. Imports are much higher in the current financial year. This is for the first time, the import has crossed 100,000 tonnes in four months.

In view of the above, I appeal to the Government, through this august House, to take immediate steps to control import of rubber and if immediate steps are not taken to curtail the unrestricted inflow of imports, the Natural Rubber plantations which support over a million growers and half a million workers directly will face serious financial crisis.