

an>

Title: Issue regarding fall in the price of natural rubber.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fall in the price of natural rubber has adversely affected all the rubber growers in India, especially the rubber growers in Kerala. Kerala alone produces about 90 per cent of natural rubber in India and about 1.5 million small farmers have been adversely affected. All these small farmers have an average holding of 5.4 hectares of land. In February, 2011, the price of natural rubber was Rs. 242 per kilogram and now it has come down to Rs. 100 per kilogram.

It has made the cost of production much higher than the revenue. The main reason for the fall in price of natural rubber is basically because in 2010 the Government has decided to reduce the import duty from 20 per cent to Rs. 20. Earlier the price of natural rubber was Rs. 242 per kilo. But we found an indiscriminate import of natural rubber. Take for example, last year alone, the gap between demand and supply was only 1,40,000 metric tonnes. But the Government of India has imported about 3,00,025 metric tonnes of natural rubber. The remaining about 2,50,000 tonnes of stock was there during the last year. Cutting across the party lines, we had agitated in front of the Parliament regarding this issue. This is not the issue of any constituency alone.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want? What is your demand?

SHRI JOSE K. MANI : Actually, one particular demand is that the import of natural rubber for the time being, for the period of minimum one year, should be banned. At the same time, Rs. 100 crore should be given for procurement from the Price Stabilization Fund. I hope that the Government will taken immediate action.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Shri N.K. Premachandran,

Shri Jitendra Chaudhury and

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jose K. Mani.