Title: Need to regulate the influx of foreign-grown rubber, either by imposing a ban on it or by enhancing the import duty.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Madam Speaker, several Members of Parliament including me raised the issue of falling prices of natural rubber in domestic market on various occasions in Lok Sabha and outside. In response to that, the Government repeats the same answer that the price of natural rubber in the country is determined by the price trends in the international markets, that a proposal for enhancing the import duty is under consideration of the Government, and that the Government is implementing various schemes for scaling up the production of natural rubber.

I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the fact that falling prices of natural rubber is largely related to the massive influx of foreign rubber into domestic market under various import routes and channels. This created an artificial surplus of rubber in domestic market as a result of which there is no demand from the manufacturers. It is learnt that the manufacturers have stocks of rubber to meet their requirement for the next six months. This stockpile has already exceeded the mark of 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of natural rubber. Due to the reluctance of manufacturers to buy domestically produced rubber, there has been no rubber trade taking place in domestic market for the last several days. Only middlemen procure rubber at the rate of below Rs.100 per kilogram

Procurement price of one kilogram rubber is Rs.150. In 2011 it was Rs.250. This shows that the rubber growers in the country are in an acute financial crisis. Large scale import of natural rubber is the major reason behind the fall in prices rather than the influence of price trends in international markets. It is obvious from the fact that a fall in prices does not lead to a corresponding decline in prices of finished products of rubber. Therefore, the Government should take urgent measures to regulate the influx of foreign-grown rubber, either by imposing a ban on it or by enhancing the import duty.

Hon. Commerce Minister assured in Rajya Sabha that she was going to enhance the import duty up to 25 per cent. In Lok Sabha, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister assured us that he would instruct the Minister to call a meeting of Kerala MPs and discuss the matter immediately. But nothing happened in the last so many weeks. It is a serious issue. There is one more issue. The import duty on the tyre imported in the country is only 12 per cent. To enhance the import duty on imported tyres upto 25 per cent is a necessity. The used tyres are imported into the country. We have seen the trend in the last so many years that almost 60 per cent of the manufacturing units are closed now and 40 lakh rubber farmers are in severe crisis. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER:
S/Shri M.B. Rajesh,
Joice George,
Jose K. Mani and
P.K. Biju are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Anto Antony.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, when a promise is made in this House to convene a meeting, it is the duty of the concerned Minister to call the meeting immediately, otherwise what is the use raising this issue and keeping quiet? This also goes against him; we will have to move a Privilege Motion. ...(Interruptions)

 $\hbox{HON. SPEAKER: I will ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister about it....} ({\it Interruptions})$

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We asked for the Motion from the Government for the farmers. When its importance is not known to the Government, then what is the use? $\hat{a} \in I$ (Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष **:** नहीं ऐसा नहीं हैं, मैं पार्तियामेंट्री अफेयर मिनिस्टर से बात करूंगी_।

…(<u>व्यवधान</u>)

श्री मिल्तिकार्जुन खड़मे**ः** हम तोमों ने लास्ट सेशन में इस विषय को रेज किया था_। उन्होंने मीटिंग बुलाने के लिए कहा था_। ...(व्यवधान) आप बोलते जाइए, हम सुनेंमे ...(व्यवधान) यह अच्छा नहीं हैं_। ...(व्यवधान)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, in the other House, the Minister of Commerce made a statement....(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष **:** नहीं ऐसा नहीं होता, यह शून्य काल में नहीं होता हैं_।

…(<u>व्यवधान</u>)

भी बोलेंगे उसे मैं स्वयं लिखूंगी और साथी मंत्री को अवगत कराऊंगी, जिससे वे आकर जवाब दे सकें, आप चर्चा शुरू कर सकते हैं । माननीय अध्यक्ष **:** मगर जीरो ऑवर में ऐसा हर बार नहीं होता है कि मिनिस्टर को कुछ बोलने के लिए कहुं, यह पद्धति नहीं हैं_।

…(<u>व्यवधान</u>)

श्री ज्योतिरादित्व माधवराव सिंधिया **(**गुना**) :** मैंडम, यह आपके इन्स्ट्रवशन का उल्लंघन हो रहा हैं, चेयर का एक सम्मान नहीं रखा जा रहा हैं_। …(<u>व्यवधान</u>)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : चेयर ने कुछ नहीं कहा था, पार्तियामेंट्री अफेयर मिनिस्टर ने सोओ-मोटो कुछ कहा था, मैं उनसे बात करूगी।

…(<u>व्यवधान</u>)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : उसका कोई कुछ गलत अर्थ न निकाले। मुझे मालूम हैं।

…(<u>व्यवधान</u>)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज **:** जीरो ऑवर में कोई एक मंत्री होना चाहिए, आप चर्चा शुरू कीजिए_।

माननीय अध्यक्ष **ः** सुषमा जी, बात बिल्कुल अतम है, यह रबर का विषय है, पहते भी यह दो-तीन बार उठ चुका है_| उस समय पार्तियामेंट्री अफेयर मिनिस्टर ने कहा था कि मैं पार्टिकुलर मिनिस्टर को केरत के सांसद को बुताकर चर्चा करें_| यह अभी तक नहीं हुई है, मैं पार्तियामेंट्री अफेयर मिनिस्टर से बात करूमी_| इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि चेयर ने कोई निर्देश दिया था_| उन्होंने स्वयं कहा था_| मैं आपको इस बारे में सूचित करूमी, इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि भून्यकात में चर्चा नहीं होती, कोई मिनिस्टर रिप्टाई नहीं देता_|