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Title: Regarding problems faced by Cardamom growers in Kerala.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDDUKI): The small Indian cardamom farmers are facing acute crisis due to the fall in market price. Though the farmers are struggling for their survival, the Spice Board, which was created by abolishing the Cardamom Board, is responsible for development and marketing of the cardamom is acting as a mere spectator. Though more than 90% of the small cardamom is being produced from Kerala, the Spice Board has taken steps to shift the office of the Director Marketing from Kochi to Selam and the Assistant Director Office at Bodynaikannur to Bangaluru. This will affect the market expansion of small cardamom and consequently result in fall of cardamom price. At present the small cardamom fetches only Rs. 600 per kg against the market price of rs. 1800 per kg during the previous years. Since the production cost of cardamom is more than Rs. 750 per kg, it is impossible for small and medium growers to survive. While introducing the GST, the cardamom should be treated as an agricultural commodity so as to get the protection. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter by taking steps to restore the responsibility of marketing of the cardamom to the Kochi office of the Spice Board and also announce MSP 50 percent above the cost of production and thereby save the interests and lives of the poor farmers.

**18.27 hrs.**

**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

**Sustainable development goals – Contd..**