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Title: Need to protection the interests of rubber farmers in the country.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Madam, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. Through you, Madam, I wish to draw the attention of this august House to a burning issue regarding the sad plight of rubber farmers across the country.

The sharp fall in price of natural rubber has caused deep distress to more than 10 lakh rubber farmers in Kerala and elsewhere.

The decision of the Government to allow indiscriminate import of rubber is intended to support powerful industrial lobby and corporate houses.

The small and marginal rubber farmers are on the verge of abject poverty and it is impossible for them to eke out a livelihood. The attitude of the Government towards rubber farmers is callous and cruel. So I urge upon the Government to put a ban on indiscriminate import of natural rubber.

I also request the Government to announce a package to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore to the State of Kerala or to the Rubber Board to ensure fair and remunerative price for natural rubber.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullapally Ramachandran.