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title: Need to address the problems faced by the rubber growers in the country.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I would request the Government to redress the grievances of the 40 lakh rubber farmers in the country. The rubber growers are the most vulnerable group in the country despite being the most lucrative sector for the industries and revenue making sector for the Government.

It should be noted that the cheap price of latex and higher prices of the finished products of rubber added a profit of Rs. 50,000 crore to the rubber based industries during the last financial year. The Government has also got more than Rs. 15,000 crore as income tax and corporate tax. Moreover, from 2003 to 2013, the Government had collected an amount of Rs. 1,200 crore as rubber cess. Last year alone, Rs. 78 crore was added to the national exchequer under the rubber cess. This shows that the Government and the industries gain a lot from the rubber sector and the only losers are the rubber growers.

HON. SPEAKER: Put the demand.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: For instance, the price of RSS 4 grade rubber per kilo is Rs. 130 and the production cost is Rs. 150. Due to the fact that the production cost exceeds the return, the rubber growers are not tapping the latex. This also leads to the declining production of natural rubber in the country. The production of natural rubber has plummeted by 50 per cent in a short span of time. (Interruptions)

I humbly request the Government to save the rubber sector by increasing the plantation subsidies to the growers, and by allocating ten per cent of the revenue from the rubber related taxes for procuring natural rubber.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम,

एडवोकेट जोएस जॉर्ज,

श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्र,

कुंवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल को श्री एंटे एंटोनी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।