

आकर्षण के क्षेत्र हैं। मेरा अनुरोध है कि देहरादून व पंतनगर से श्री अयोध्या धाम व अन्य धार्मिक महत्व के शहरों, जैसे भुवनेश्वर, सोमनाथ, काशी, उज्जैन, बनारस आदि तक नई फ्लाइट्स का चलाया जाना बेहद आवश्यक है।

Plight of Rubber farmers in Kerala

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, Kerala's rubber plantations, once thriving as arteries of prosperity, are now bleeding with the lifeblood of its farmers. For over a decade, these cultivators have been facing a cruel twist of fate as the prices plummeted. The State Government is trying its best to provide relief but the constraints of resource are preventing the State from helping out the rubber farmers.

It is to be noted that the main reason for the sad plight of the rubber farmers is the import of natural rubber. The nominal hike in duty on crump rubber was not made applicable to the ASEAN countries thereby making no difference in the lives and livelihood of the farmers. Kerala was encouraged to concentrate on cash crops and that was the cardinal reason for people resorting to rubber cultivation.

Letters have been sent by the State requesting to increase Customs Duty on compound rubber and Import Duty on all forms of dry natural rubber to at least 70 per cent as well as to fix minimum import price for natural rubber. Kerala has also requested for Minimum Support Price for natural rubber based on the formula devised by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee.

The Union Government should give due attention to the plight of around 12 lakh small-scale rubber cultivators. Hence, I urge upon the Government to take adequate measures to alleviate the plight of these hapless farmers. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following Hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by Dr. John Brittas: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala).

Demand to establish another unit of National Sugar Institute in Meerut

श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, गन्ना भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था तथा गन्ना उत्पादक किसानों को बहुत अधिक प्रभावित करता है। अभी देश में गन्ने के सम्बन्ध में शोध, प्रशिक्षण एवं सलाह देने के लिए केवल कानपुर में नेशनल शुगर इंस्टीट्यूट है, जो वर्ष 1936 में स्थापित किया गया था। यह नेशनल शुगर इंस्टीट्यूट उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय के अन्तर्गत कार्य करता है।