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# Modi promises to put curbs on rubber import

T Ramavarman,TNN | Dec 15, 2015, 10.18 AM IST

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THRISSUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he Centre will restrict impor of rubber by augmenting duties and thereby arrest its falling prices in the domestic market.

Addressing a public meet ng organized by the BJP at the Thekkinkadu Maidan, the Prime Minister said a large number of farmers were facing crisis because of the falling rub ber prices.

The Prime Minister also said that production of rubber based products will be an im portant component of the Make in India' programme This

will also lead to better rub ber prices by creating demand n the local market.

In his nearly one-hour long speech Modi gave a detailed ac count on how the various schemes launched by the cen ral government will benefit the people of Kerala.

Calling Kerala's youths in elligent, educated, and hard working, the prime minister said his government would cre ate conditions that would en able them to make major contri butions in the `Digital India programme.

The government will en sure that the banks provide oans to the poorer sections to pursue education. A separate monitoring committee has been set up to ensure that the banks comply with this govern ment directive and do not ha rass parents and students.

Nearly Rs 2,100 crore has been distributed to 2.28 lakh people belonging to the SCST and OBC sections in Kerala un der the Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana to help them set up smal enterprises, he said.

A large section of the state's youth are working overseas and he government is making lot o efforts to improve their lot, he said. "The stature of India has gone up in the internationa scene, and we are now able to deal with the foreign countries on equal terms. The government is leveraging on this to ensure the welfare of NRIs," he said.

Modi said the government will take steps ensure that youngsters can work and lead a comfortable life within India itself.

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The Prime Minister referred to the huge population of fish workers in the state and said the government has appointed a new committee for the modernization of the fisheries sector and for promoting export of marine products.

Modi, however, did not make announcements regarding big ticket projects for the state. BJP state president V Muralidharan in his welcome address had made an open request to the Prime Minister for announcing a project for the development of Sabarimala, but no mention of it was made in the speech.

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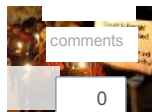
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