

Regarding damage to coconut plants due to attack of black headed caterpillars in Tirupattur and Tiruvannamalai districts in Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): I wish to draw kind attention of Union Government of India towards the attack of Black Headed Caterpillar causing huge damage to coconut plants in Tirupattur & Tiruvannamalai District which comes under my Parliamentary Constituency, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu. Needless to say that coconut is the mainstay of the farmers living in Tirupattur & Tiruvannamalai District. Coconut is cultivated in the area covering 10,600 hectares of land, by 5800 farmers, thereby producing 954 lakhs nuts per year only in Tirupattur District. It is due to the above mention pest attack the coconut production is being drastically reduced. Therefore, I request Hon^{ble} Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to take necessary action to regulate the pest attack and also to give adequate compensation to the farmers at the earliest.