

Regarding need for setting up of Coconut Board in Andhra Pradesh-Laid

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (MACHILIPATNAM): Even though Andhra Pradesh is 4th largest in terms of area of coconut cultivation and production, but when it comes to productivity i.e., number of coconuts per hectare, Andhra Pradesh is on the top in the entire world. Sir, with nearly 16,000 coconuts per hectare, AP's productivity is highest in the world. No doubt, India's area of cultivation and production are going up, but productivity is coming down. Productivity came down from 11,481 coconuts per hectare in 2016-17 to just 9,018 coconuts in 2022-23. This clearly indicates that there is a need to set up Coconut Board in AP for integrated development of coconut production, productivity and product diversification. The absence of Coconut Board, Regional Office or even State Centre in AP which has highest productivity of coconut is unfair and impacting coconut farmers, production, productivity and R&D. Hence, I appeal for setting up of Coconut Board in Andhra Pradesh.