

Title: Regarding a steep fall in the price of coconut.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Hon. Speaker Sir, there has been a steep fall in the price of coconut recently. This fall in price of coconut has adversely affected the plight of coconut growers. It may be highlighted in this context that rising of a coconut plantation has a long period of gestation before the benefit of the crop is reaped by the growers.

As a result of this, a major portion of the lifetime of the farmer is devoted to raising this crop and at the end of it, if the prices are not remunerative, the farmers' hopes are shattered. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : महोदय, हम मंत्री जी से जवाब से संतुष्ट नहीं हैं, इसलिए हम सदन से बहिकार करते हैं।

1243 hours

(At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other

hon. Members left the House.)

** Not Recorded*

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : We have already seen extreme hardships faced by farmers due to non-realisation of remunerative prices in other crops earlier. It is imperative for the Government to bring out a market intervention strategy by ensuring a minimum support price for coconut so that farmers do not resort to any drastic steps. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, he is reading. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, you cannot read during 'Zero Hour'.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Sir, the Minister of Agriculture may kindly be pleased to intervene in the matter either directly or through the Coconut Board to mitigate the hardship faced by the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)