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Title : Regarding plight of coconut growers in Tamil Nadu.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Sir, on behalf of MDMK, headed by our eminent leader Thiru Vaiko, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties faced by the coconut growers in my constituency Pollachi in particular and Tamil Nadu as a whole.

For the last three years the monsoon had failed and there had been no rains as a result of which the coconut yield was very poor. This year, due to heavy rains the coconut yield is fine but the price of copra and coconut has fallen down. The coconut is sold at Rs.2 or Rs.3 per piece and copra is sold at Rs.30 per Kg. I went to the market to investigate the reason for this low price. I found that it is due to the import of de-oiled cake, which is imported under the brand as animal and poultry feed. The de-oiled cake, which is imported, is again crushed and oil is extracted from that. The oil content of the de-oiled cake is up to 70 per cent. This way, the oil is smuggled into our country and as a result the price of the oil produced by our coconut growers has become very less. The coconut is also selling at low price.

My request to the Government is that the import of de-oiled cakes should be thoroughly investigated and regulated[\[R28\]](#).

I would request that the edible oil import should be restricted and export of coconut should be permitted.