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Title : Need to take suitable precautionary measures to check spread of deadly disease-affecting coconut trees with a view to protect the interest of coconut farmers in Tumkur district of Karnataka.

[*SHRIS. MALLIKARJUNIAH \(TUMKUR\)](#): Sir, Tumkur District in Karnataka is facing a severe drought situation as there was no sufficient rain there during the last four years. The ground water level has gone down to 660 ft to 700 ft. The coconut trees are affected by various diseases like Black Mind, Root Wilt, etc. The unfortunate Districts where the production of coconut has gone down drastically are Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore, and parts of Chikkamagalur and Hassan. Even the size of the coconut has been reduced to one-fourth of its original size. The coconut garden owners are not in a position to pay instalments on their bank loans. Some small farmers who are mainly dependent upon coconut trees have committed suicide.

There is a drastic reduction in the export of copra thereby affecting the country's foreign exchange earning. Under these alarming circumstances, the Government of India should come forward to the rescue of coconut growers in Karnataka. I urge upon the Centre to come out with a comprehensive package to provide adequate compensation and to save the suffering coconut growers immediately.