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Title : Need to fix a minimum support price for procurement of coconut in Kerala.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to the serious situation and the plight of coconut farmers of Kerala. Sixty lakh plus households in Kerala, devoting 42 per cent of acreage to coconut cultivation, have a stake in the remunerative pricing of it and its by-products. The price is falling. Compared to the average price of Rs. 6,638 per 1,000 nuts without husk in 2005, it plummeted to Rs. 3,500. Compounding this disaster is the implementation of FTAs like SAFTA effective from July 1, 2006 and ASEAN to be effective from January 1, 2007. The experience shows how unrestricted imports facilitated by such trade

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\*Not Recorded.

agreements can lead to price crash. The EXIM policy of 2000 resulted in the price of coconut plunging from Rs. 5,050 for 1,000 nuts in January, 2000 to Rs. 2,446 for 1,000 nuts in 2001.

Unless the Government demonstrate the political will to enact a few measures, the economic spine of Kerala will be shattered beyond repair. Thank you.