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Title: Need to import edible oil through the ports other than Southern ports of the Country.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): The decision of the Government through the budget and later through an executive order to reduce the duty of imported edible oils like Sunflower oil and Palm oil will adversely affect the price of coconut oil and thereby the price of coconut which is largely produced in the southern states of the country. Kerala alone produces about 5 lac metric tons of coconut oil. Kerala has more than 30 lac coconut farmers with over 9 lac hectares of land area. Besides, production of coconut has increased in other southern states like Tamil Nadu. Hence, if at all, the Government imports edible oil, to correct the demand-supply mis-match, as claimed by the Ministries concerned, the measure has to be restricted to in the short term and the import should be avoided through the southern ports of Cochin, Mangalore, Tuticorin and Chennai.

I request the Government to issue necessary orders for the same.