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Title: Need to conduct Research and Development work on "Mandal Mite" a disease affecting Coconut in Southern India.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (NOMINATED): I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Agriculture regarding the plight of coconut farmers in Tumkur, Shimoga and Tiptur regions of Southern India due to the spread of Mandari mite, a disease that reduces the size of the coconut, thereby affecting yield of oil and coir. Despite every effort the concerned research agencies have not been able to find a solution to combat the disease.

The Government is requested to look into the matter and support relevant research in this area to provide relief to the farmers.