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Title: Need to fix remunerative price of coconut – laid.

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SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, in Uddhanam area of Srikakulam district, which is my parliamentary constituency, coconut farmers are facing problems due to lack of Minimum Support Price for Copra. However, four southern states - Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh account for over 90 per cent of total coconut acreage and production in the country. The declining productivity of coconut in the past few years has become a major area of concern. Adverse weather conditions and the problem of disease infestation were the two major risk factors for the low income to farmers. The coconut plantation is a lifeline in southern states and farmers tend to lose on account of vagaries of weather, pests and diseases every year. The conditions of coconut farmers is aggravated due to falling price of coconut produce which has put the farmers in a pitiable situation.

The National Agriculture Commission headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Coconut Development Board have also recommended rejuvenation of old and senile plantation in a phased manner by replanting with quality planting materials. The project report is still under consideration of the Government of India.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) has not brought any relief to coconut farmers. The Centre has raised the Minimum Support Price for milling copra to Rs 3,620 a quintal and ball copra to Rs 3,870. But, no agency has commenced procurement according to raised Minimum Support Price. Non-implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for coconut after its announcement has deprived the coconut farmers of better price.

I urge upon the Government of India to raise the MSP for Coconut and implement the project report without any further delay so that coconut farmers all over the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh would get solace.