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Title : Need to relax norms for purchase of Copra by NAFED in Karnataka.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ (TUMKUR): Karnataka is a major grower of plantation crops and a sizeable number of farmers are engaged in coconut cultivation. My constituency is a major copra producing and trading centre where NAFED, the Government's nodal procurement agency operates to buy Copra stocks from farmers.

However, this year because of scanty rains and resultant decrease of inputs in soil-based nutrition, the coconuts produced are smaller in size than the average produce but the edible quality remain as good as the normally formed full size kernels. Yet the NAFED is bent upon rejecting a major part of the produce offered on trivial technical grounds, based on specified diameter of the kernel at 75 mm whereas the current produce is smaller in size and averages around 45 mm without any deficiency in edible quality or oil content. In times of distress, NAFED should not be rigid on enforcing norms on size of the produce offered by relaxing norms on kernel size and thickness that could be applied only during a normal production year. This will give relief to many farmers who are still holding stocks.