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Title: Need to ban the import of coconut products in the country.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The problem which is being faced by the coconut growers of the country is very serious. There is a steep decrease in the price of coconut which is affecting the life of thousands of coconut growers in Kerala.

The price of the coconut has decreased from Rs. 8 to 10 last year to Rs 3 to Rs. 4. This decrease has hit the life of the coconut growers in Kerala. The main cause of the price decrease is the liberalized import policy of the Government of India which is continuing in the country. Now, the coconut oil and palm oils are being imported liberally throughout the country. Higher import of vegetable oil during November 2011 to October 2012 has adversely affected the oil price in the country and thereby the farmers are not even getting the production cost of coconut.

The support Price of copra is not helpful to the farmers in the country. I urge upon the Government to come forward to ban the import of coconut products at least for a certain period otherwise the coconut growers in the country cannot survive.