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Title: Need to address the problems of coconut growers in Theni parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (THENI): I would like to raise problems of coconut farmers of my constituency Theni in Tamil Nadu. There are nearly 5000 to 10000 coconut growers. More than hundred acres of land are under the cultivation of coconut. There are a lot of usage of coconut e.g. for worship, kitchen consumption, oil used in medicine as well as hair oil. But today, coconut farmers face many problems and are struggling to survive for themselves due to the low price offered for the produce. Coconut plants are affected by diseases called Euro fit Mite and yellow leaves. The State Government provides some subsidy on pesticides that is not sufficient and, therefore, subsidy on pesticides be increased. Another problem is that the workers demand Rs 15 to 20 per tree for plucking the coconuts and a coconut is sold for just Rs. 3 to 5 only then how can they survive?

My humble request to the Government of India is to set up a direct procurement centre for coconuts as well as Copra (dried coconuts), coconut board, fixed price of coconut by Central Government and also increase the subsidy on pesticides and on semi automation coconut plucking machines so that they can get relief from the demands of coconut tree climbers for higher wages. Coconuts are becoming very small due to water shortage. Government should give subsidy for drip irrigation system. Tree dogs at places, are climbing on the trees and eating small coconuts and spoiling the yield. Some methods should be adopted to prevent these dogs from climbing on these trees and spoiling the yield. The Government should come forward to help the growers in the form of subsidy.