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Title: Need to set up storage facilities for copra at Mangalore and Beypore and also relax conditions for procurement of copra from farmers of Lakshadweep islands.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards inadequate storage facilities for storing copra, the main produce of the Lakshadweep Islands. There are insufficient godowns to store copra. A number of requests have been sent to NAFED to provide the same. Immediate steps may kindly be taken up for providing storage facilities at Mangalore and Beypore so that the Copra does not get perished and the farmers do not incur losses because of the lack of storage facilities. In the matter of procurement of Copra for the first time the Department has asked for farmers identity cards, list of farmers who supply copra and land holding certificates to be provided as documentation before procurement could take place. For the last few years NAFED has been purchasing copra from the islanders, and no such document was asked for. Keeping in view the Scheduled Tribe status of the islanders the Ministry should consider relaxing these conditions for the islanders to ensure that their produce is purchased and they can earn revenue for the same.