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Title : Need to check fall of price of Arecaunut and Coconut in Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to place some of the pathetic conditions of arecaunut farmers not only in Kerala but also in Karnataka, Goa and in other States.

Sir, the hon. Chairman himself is well aware of the fact that the Members of Parliament of these States have met and discussed this issue in detail. Four or five days back, the price of one kilogram of arecaunut was Rs. 160/- and it is now only Rs. 50/- or Rs. 60/-. There is no one to buy it. It is not their fault because they have engaged in arecaunut cultivation. So, some measures have to be taken by the Central Government and also the State Government in this regard.

Sir, there are some reports from WHO that arecaunut cultivation is not being promoted by the Central Government. But at the same time, the Government should come with some special package to enable the farmers to convert their cultivation from arecaunut to some other kind of cultivation. For the time being, the Government should also come forward to provide some support price to assist the farmers.

Sir, I would like to request the Government to take up this matter with urgent importance.