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Title: Regarding price of copra.

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): Madam Speaker, I convey my sincere thanks to the People's Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for giving me an opportunity to represent the public of Pollachi parliamentary constituency.

I wish to inform that, in my constituency, nearly, 92,000 hectares are under coconut cultivation. This amounts to one-fourth of coconut cultivation area in Tamil Nadu. Due to failure of South-West and North-East monsoon, the coconut farmers are in a crisis and are facing great loss in producing copra. Hence, the production of copra is dwindling in my constituency. With great hardship, 2,02,000 metric tonnes of copra are being produced. The agriculturists could not survive in the coconut cultivation as the Minimum Support Price of copra fixed by NAFED is only Rs. 52.50 per kilogram. Recently, I have come to understand that the price has been increased by Rs. 3 per kilogram. In fact, the open market copra is being traded around RS. 105 per kilogram.

The people's Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, had already requested that the procurement price of copra fixed by NAFED has to be increased to Rs. 140 per kilogram to relieve the coconut farmers from the financial crisis.

Madam Speaker, this is not my personal request but it is for the welfare of crores and crores of coconut farmers throughout India as regards fixing the Minimum Support Price of copra at Rs. 140 per kilogram.

I shall be very much pleased if the procurement price of copra is fixed by NAFED at Rs. 140 per kilogram, arrange adequate compensation and release the required funds from the Market Price Stabilization Fund in this financial year itself.