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Title: Need to set up a regional office of Coconut Development Board in Thanjavur Parliamentary Constituency.

□ SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Agriculture an issue relating to Coconut Development Board. Our country gets an income of Rs. 8300 million through coconut products. It also earns a foreign exchange of 13000 million dollars. Although Kerala stands first in coconut production in the country, coconut is cultivated in 3,89,900 hectares of land in Tamil Nadu and around 72 million coconut trees are grown here. Around 5365 million coconuts are produced in Tamil Nadu making it one of the largest coconut producing States of India. Three districts in Tamil Nadu including Thanjavur are known for coconut cultivation in large scale. Thanjavur, which is my constituency, has a unique place in coconut production. The Headquarters of Coconut Development Board is in Kochi of Kerala. The Coconut Development Board has a regional office in Chennai. Coconut farmers are benefitted by several welfare schemes of Tamil Nadu government under the able guidance of Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma. But the benefits of the welfare schemes of Union government do not percolate down to coconut farmers due to misguiding middlemen. I therefore urge that a regional office of Coconut Development Board should be set up in Thanjavur, an area known for coconut cultivation. Thank you.

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