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Title: Need to increase the Minimum Support Price of Coconut and Arecanut.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): The coconut and arecanut growing farmers in the country, more particularly in Karnataka are put to great hardship and financial crisis due to steep fall in the prices of copra, coconut and arecanut in the market. In addition to this, the farmers are also suffering due to depletion of underground water as well as continuous drought situation which is prevailing in the whole country more so in Karnataka. Illegal entry of coconut and arecanut from the neighbouring countries to the Indian market is aggravating the situation. Import of these agricultural products are also adding fuel to the fire.

The prevailing market value of copra per quintal is approximately Rs.7,000/-; coconut per quintal is Rs.1,600- and arecanut per quintal is about Rs.18,000/-. With these prices for all these agricultural products, the farmers cannot sustain the cost of production. Steep fall in the prices of these agricultural products is forcing the farmers to commit suicide.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to come to the rescue of coconut and arecanut growing farmers by ensuing remunerative prices to the growers by increasing the MSP by fixing Rs.20,000/- per quintal for copra; Rs.3,000/- per quintal for coconut and Rs.40,000/- per quintal for arecanut.