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title: Need to provide special package for Coconut and Arecanut growers in the country.

SHRI R. DHIRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I want to raise an important issue regarding coconut and arecanut farmers who are facing severe problem in Karnataka. Coconut and arecanut are the main plantation crops in our State. Coconut is grown over an area of 5.06 lakh hectares and arecanut is grown in an area of 2.64 lakh hectares. For the past three or four years, we have been facing drought in our State of Karnataka. Due to this, two lakh hectares of coconut and 52,000 hectares of arecanut plantation are completely dried. In this connection, our Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Union Government on 17.05.2017 seeking a special package of about Rs. 2,500 crore for arecanut and coconut farmers. In addition, they are giving input subsidy of Rs. 18,000 per hectare per crop as per NDRF guidelines for crop loss which is very unscientific and very meagre. I urge upon the Union Government to finance the NDRF subsidy for crop loss and release special package for coconut and arecanut farmers in our State.