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Title: Regarding setting up of a Regional office of Coconut Board in Karnataka- Laid

**SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** Coconut is a very important crop in Karnataka. In Karnataka, 518,390 hectares of areas are under coconut plantation which is 27.72% of the total area of production in the country and is 26.36% of total production in the country. The coconut farmers are not getting any help from the Coconut Board or Union Government for improving the production. Coconut farmers are in distress as there is large-scale destruction of coconut palms due to moisture stress and pest attacks. Moisture stress in soil has resulted in low productivity. Black Headed Caterpillar and Leaf Blight infestation are also causing major losses to the coconut farmers. The coconut production in Karnataka requires technical and financial assistance from the Union Government as the state is No. 2 in production. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to establish a Regional Office of Coconut Board in Karnataka to help the Coconut farmers in the state.

