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Title: Issue regarding problems faced by the coconut farmers and to increase the minimum support price (MSP) of milling copra to Rs. 150 per Kg in Tamil Nadu.

**SHRI K. SHANMUGA SUNDARAM (POLLACHI):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice the problems faced by the coconut farmers in my Parliamentary constituency.

Tamil Nadu is the leading State in coconut cultivation in India with the crops grown on more than 3.09 lakh hectares. The State is producing approximately 5,365 million coconuts in a year. Pollachi Parliamentary constituency is the largest coconut growing place in India and it is also called 'Coconut Capital' of Tamil Nadu. But despite being the largest producer of coconut and its allied products, it is deprived of a Coconut Welfare Board and a Coconut Research Centre nearby. Due to shortage of rainfall, coconut yield has dropped to 50 per cent. Also, because of natural calamities, most of the farmers are switching over from coconut cultivation to other jobs.

Due to the above reasons, it is essential to increase the Minimum Support Price of milling copra to Rs. 150 per kilogram. This is the main demand of our coconut farmers in Tamil Nadu. To keep the coconut farmers alive, it is essential for the Government to consider increasing the Minimum Support Price of milling copra to Rs. 150 per kilogram. Thank you, Sir.

