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Title: Regarding problems of Areca nut growers in Malnad region of Karnataka.

***SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA):**
Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country shri Narendra Modi ji has a dream for doubling the income of farmers by 2022. I congratulate our hon'ble Prime Minister and the NDA government for implementation of various programs to make our farmers progress economically. It shows that our government is Pro-farmer.

Areca nut is grown in 13 states of the country. Especially in Karnataka the crop is grown in 16 districts. However, areca nut growers are in great distress. Areca nut is considered auspicious and it is very much essential in all religious functions and ceremonies. In northern India areca nut is used for consumption by a large number of people. Areca nut grown in parts of Shimoga district in Karnataka is used to make Painting works and adhesive. So, it can be understood that areca nut is used by all sections of the people of the country.

However the growers of such an important crop are in a pathetic condition for three reasons. Firstly, the areca nut crop is affected by Fruit rot disease and Yellow leaf disease. Such diseases are causing huge drop in the yield of the crop. Therefore I urge upon the government through you to take steps to develop a proper pesticide to prevent the disease in a scientific way.

My second point is that there is rampant illegal trade of areca nut from neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh etc. Illegal import of

areca nut is also causing loss to the national exchequer to the tune of Rs. 5000 crores due to evasion of custom duty by illegal traders. There is a need to put an end to the illegal trade of areca nut. The security in the border States should be strengthened to prevent illegal import of areca nut.

My third point is that the Union Government should announce Support Price for areca nut and also a special package should be introduced to protect the interest of the areca nut growers in the country.

I urge upon the Union Government to take appropriate measures to protect our areca nut growers, who are adversely affected by heavy rains in the country especially in Karnataka. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बोलने का मौका देंगे ।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, Opposition members should also be given the opportunity to speak. There should not be any discrimination between the Ruling Party members and the Opposition party members.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य मैं अभी जीरो ऑवर की लिस्ट लॉटरी में निकली, उसको पूरा कर रहा हूं । उसके बाद माननीय सदस्यों के निवेदन पर मैं उनको अलाउ करूंगा । आप उनको बोलने दीजिए, उनको डिस्टर्ब मत कीजिए ।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: ऐसा नहीं है । मैंने श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी को कल पूरा टाइम दिया है ।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य आप बैठ जाइए ।

...(व्यवधान)

एडवोकेट अजय भट्ट (नैनीताल-ऊधमसिंह नगर): माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ ...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य बैठ जाइए ।

...(व्यवधान)