

Title: Regarding need to increase the support price of copra from Rs.5000/- per quintal-Laid.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): I would like to invite your kind attention towards the problems faced by the coconut growers in Kerala State. The opening up of the country's economy to the world market and the liberalized import of various agricultural economy in the State of Kerala. The crisis has been further deepened by the price crash of coconut and coconut products due to the indiscriminate import of edible oils and flooding in Kerala market with low quality Palmolin carrying a low price of Rs.23/- per kg. Coconut crop covers nearly 10.5 lakh hectare constitution 34% of cropped area and contribute 35% of agricultural income in the State. It is estimated that 30 lakh framers are engaged in coconut cultivation, 90% of whom are small and marginal. I may point out that the price of coconut is based on the price of copra and coconut oil. The maximum support price declared by the Govt. of India earlier is totally un-remunerative to the farmers and unrealistic in comparison with factors of cost of production of copra.

I therefore, request to the Government to increase the maximum support price of Rs.5000/- per quintal of copra and also increase the import duty of edible oils.