

Title: Regarding need to clear the proposal of Karnataka Government for controlling Eriophyid mite affecting coconut crop in the State – Laid.

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA (DAVANGERE) : The coconut is an important horticulture crop in the State of Karnataka. It is cultivated in an area of 4.95 lakh hectares with an annual production of 344 crore nuts. In recent years, Eriophyid mite is causing havoc and it is estimated that about 52600 hectares involving more than 78 lakh palms have been affected. Hence there is need to take up measures to contro this mite on a massive scale. A project for controlling this pest was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India seeking a financial assistance of Rs.37.47 crore for the year 2000. The project cost works out to be Rs.336.47 crore over a period of five years. The Union Government has not so far taken any decision in spite of the several reminders issued by the State Government of Karnataka and the matter is still pending

Hence, I urge that the Government may kindly clear this project at an early date to help the coconut growers.

(ends)