

Title: Need to safeguard the interest of farmers engaged in the cultivation of arecanut (Supari) in Dakshin Kannada in Karnataka-laid.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): There is unprecedented crash in prices of arecanut (*Supari*) which sustain a large section of farmers in any constituency – *Dakshin Kannada*. The stocks of arecanut are piling up with farmers with no buyers ready to offer a remunerative price. The arecanut farmers are in debt and cannot sustain any longer unless the Centre intervenes through its agricultural commodity procurement agencies by offering a minimum floor price for arecanut to bail out the farmers from this crisis.

Further, the situation has been worsened through unhindered imports of arecanut, at low import duty, which has destabilised the domestic market. I would, therefore, call upon the Government to delink arecanut from import classification of 'Nuts' and ban the imports altogether to protect the interest of the local arecanut farmers.