

Title: Need to declare Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce in Kerala.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the need to announce Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce.

Even though the Government of India announces Minimum Support Price for 24 crops, Kerala gets the benefit of Minimum Support Price only for copra. The price of various agricultural commodities in Kerala are falling from the year 2000 onwards. This is mainly due to globalization with liberal imports of agricultural commodity consequent to the W.T.O. Agreement. Hence, the resource poor, risk prone small and marginal farmers of Kerala cultivating arecanut, pepper, coffee etc. have to be protected through the Minimum Support Price Programme.

In the circumstances, I request the Union Government to announce Minimum Support Price for the above agricultural commodities urgently to protect the interest of the farmers.