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Title: Need to declare minimum support price for pepper and arecanut growers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently four Ministers of the Government of Kerala came to Delhi and presented a Memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister and they were led by the Finance Minister of Kerala. Among the many things they represented, I would like to mention about two things in the House by way of special mention. The first one is regarding the problems faced by pepper growers. All of us know that pepper is an important item in our food and we all use pepper, but the cultivators are facing a very severe crisis due to fall in the price of pepper. The fall in the price of pepper has reached such an enormous proportion that they cannot continue further cultivation of pepper and they are facing starvation.

Secondly, arecanut growers are also very much affected due to the recent drastic price fall. From an average of Rs. 116/- per kilogram, the price of arecanut has come down to Rs. 38/- per kilogram, as a result of which, arecanut growers are also facing a severe crisis.

So, I request the Central Government to come to the rescue of pepper growers as well as arecanut growers.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सुरेश जी, आप संक्षेप में बोलिए।