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Title: Reported decision of the Government to import palmolin oil in large quantity causing concern to coconut growers.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, the Central Cooperative Federation, NAFED, has invited tender to procure 10000 tonnes of palm oil for the sale through Public Distribution System outlets with a subsidy of Rs. 15 per KG. This is again the earlier decision of the Government. The import of palm oil and the sale of it through PDS would adversely affect the market of coconut oil. The farmers, particularly the coconut farmers in the State of Kerala, have already been facing serious crisis and the import of palm oil would further add to their woes. Although the Kerala ports have been exempted from the import of palm oil, the procurement of the same can be done from Mangalapuram as import is allowed from Mangalapuram.

I urge upon the Government to desist from the decision of import of palm oil and the sale through PDS in order to protect the coconut sector and the farmers.

Thank you.

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DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shrimati Sujatha.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.