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Title: Need to permit the tapping of Coconut-Palm milk from Coconut and Palmyra trees for its use as a herbal drink in the country.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, Toddy-Palm Milk is one of the traditional, social and local herbal drink extracted from Coconut and Palmyra trees. It is famous in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nigeria, Central and Western Africa and other parts of Southeast Asia. There is a widespread belief that Coconut Herbal Drink is a rich source of the B-Complex Vitamins. The scientists of U.K., K.C. Browning & C.Y. Symons had submitted a report during 1916 that Toddy contains Vitamin B1. Shri P.C. Leong, a scientist in the University of Malaysia conducted a research about the nutritive value of coconut herbal drink and submitted a report. As per his report, the coconut drink is having yeast cells that are mostly alive, it follows that its nutritive value as a source of Thiamine (B1) and Riboflavin (B2) is found mainly in the fluid. The above herbal drink is having only 3.8% alcohol. Some of the States like Tamil Nadu had banned its tapping for the past 20 years, but are selling Indian Made Foreign Liquor. As the above herbal drink is of medicinal value and it cures TB, Asthma and other lung related diseases, if tapping of Toddy is allowed, it will certainly fetch very good income for coconut growers, farm labourers and other workers.

Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Union of India to include Coconut- Palm Milk as a herbal drink and direct all the States to allow tapping it from Coconut and Palmyra trees.