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Title: Regarding Arecanut Fruit rot disease (Kole roga) in Dakshina Kannada.

\*SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA) : Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you. Coastal belt, Malnadu region and about six districts of Karnataka namely Chikkamagaluru, Udupi, Davanagere Shiomogga, Karwara and Chitradurga have received good rainfall in the last 30 years. Farmers in these parts of Karnataka are dependent heavily on Arecanut cultivation. Unfortunately their livelihood is affected due to fruit rot disease, which is damaging the arecanut crop. Arecanut growers are suffering huge loss due to the depleting yield and poor quality of arecanut. The Government of Karnataka has already submitted its

preliminary report to the centre on the loss suffered by arecanut farmers due to fruit rot disease. According to the report arecanut crop in 1 lakh 38 thousand hectares was damaged. The estimated loss as per the study report was Rs.1,389 crore. Arecanut farmers of Karnataka are contributing 60 percent to the total arecanut production of the country. But this year about 80 percent of the arecanut crop is damaged due to the fruit rot disease. Even through famers used pesticides and insecticides it was not helping them to control the disease as the region received record rainfall from May 2013 to August 2013. Many a times famers could not use insecticides and pesticides. The fruit rot disease not only affected arecanut but also caused damage to the arecanut trees. Apart from fruit rot disease arecanut is also affected by Yellow leaf disease. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to send a team of agriculture experts to study the problem and conduct research to save arecanut crops and its farmers from the fruit rot disease.

The centre should also introduce a special package to provide compensation to affected arecanut growers. The centre should waive off the loan raised by arecanut growers on the line of State Government of Karnataka. The State Government had already waived off the loan given to arecanut growers. I also urge the Union Government that arecanut growers should be provided compensation of Rs.50,000 per hectare. With these words I conclude my speech.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shivarama Gouda, Devji M. Patel, Suresh Angadi, Pralhad Joshi, P.C. Gaddigoudar, Shivkumar Udasi, Ramesh Vishwanath Katti are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel.