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Title: Need to postpone the Ordinance banning the sale of gutka in plastic sachets to save areca growers.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA (UDUPI-CHIKMAGALUR): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to 25 lakh areca nut growers and its multifold labour families across the country.

Areca nut is one of the major horticulture crops in India, and it is grown in Karnataka, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and a few other States. We produce more than six lakh metric tonnes of areca nut every year. Nearly, 80 per cent -- out of six lakh metric tonnes -- of areca nut grown is consumed by the gutka manufacturing industries. The areca nut growers are in great danger due to yellow disease as a result of which the areca nut gardens are at the verge of collapse.

Furthermore, the whole of the areca growers are fully affected by the notification published by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Ordinance banning the sale of gutka in plastic sachets was issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests dated 4/2/2011 under the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2011. It came into effect from today, that is, 1/3/2011. The market has come down to the extent of nearly Rs. 4,000 per quintal just because the Ordinance has come out.

From today onwards, the market is totally shut; the areca nut purchasing markets are already shut, and nobody is going to purchase the areca nut thereby the areca-growing families are facing severe danger. Hence it is necessary to postpone the implementation of the Ordinance. We do not say that the Ordinance should not be implemented. We are not saying that. However, an alternative mechanism has to be sought out and till then, the implementation of this Ordinance has to be postponed.

I would like to submit that while milk is sold in milk sachets; all the sweets are sold in sachets; even water is sold in sachets; then why only *gutka* sachets are being banned, I do not know. This is really strange. There is something behind this.

So, I pray that this Ordinance has to be postponed till an alternative mechanism is found.

Further, the Experts Committee has already recommended to the Centre the cost for production of red variety of areca-nut as Rs. 148, and for white variety as Rs. 114. The same should be accepted by the Centre and the Minimum Support Price should be given without any delay. The affected farmers are also facing a great danger. So, a relief package has to be given to them in the Supplementary Budget itself. Otherwise, certainly, several areca-growing farmers are going to commit suicide.

Therefore, I urge the Government, through you, Sir, to take immediate steps to postpone the present Ordinance till the alternative mechanism is found.

MR. CHAIRMAN : *Sarvashri* G.M. Siddeshwara, Anant Kumar Hegde and P.C. Gaddigoudar are allowed to associate themselves with what the hon. Member has said.

...(Interruptions)

**सभापति महोदय:** जो भी माननीय सदस्य इस विषय के साथ एसोसियेट करना चाहते हैं, वे अपने नाम भेज दें।

(व्यवधान)

**श्री अनंत कुमार हेगड़े (उत्तर कन्नड़):** सभापति महोदय, यह मल्टी स्टेट इश्यू है, इसलिए इस पर आधे घंटे की चर्चा होनी चाहिए।  
...(व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल उठा दिया और आपने उसका समर्थन कर दिया। आप उन्हें बोलने दीजिए।

â€(व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** कृपा करके आप सब अपना आसन ग्रहण कीजिए।

â€(व्यवधान)

**श्री अनंत कुमार हेगड़े :** हम सब समर्थन कर रहे हैं, लेकिन यह मल्टी स्टेट इश्यू है, इसलिए इस पर आधे घंटे की चर्चा होनी

चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** प्रश्न पर आधे घंटे की डिबेट हो सकती है। यदि आप अलग से इस पर डिबेट चाहते हैं तो उसके लिए नोटिस दीजिए।

â€(व्यवधान)