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Title: Regarding mistake in the Manual of Census, 2011.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Sir, I would like to bring to the urgent attention of the House the matter regarding a serious mistake occurred in the Census 2011 Manual. In Page 68 of the English version (it repeats in the regional language versions too) of the "Instruction Manual for Updating of Abridged house lists and Filling up of the Household Schedule" - Section 6.125 states that a person can be classified as a cultivator or an agricultural labourer only on the basis of the crop grown. Growing of following crops is considered as cultivation. In clause (viii) they are named as - growing of Ganja, cinchona, opium as cultivation and the person is classified either as cultivator or agricultural labourer. Also clause 6.126 states that "The growing of plantation crops is not considered as agriculture. If a person is engaged in the growing of such crops she or he will not be considered as the cultivator or agricultural labourer but considered as other worker."

This will have serious implications, while illegal drugs such as ganja, cinchona, opium, etc. find a place in the official list of agricultural crops, farmers of plantation crops are excluded from being considered as farmers or agricultural labourers. In States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu which survive on plantation crops such as rubber, coconut, areca nut, tea, coffee, etc will bear the maximum brunt of this provision in this Manual and have to stay outside the purview of the Central Government's financial assistance. The move to exclude coconut, which is extensively used as part and parcel of daily life of Keralites from the list of plantation crops is doubtful and involves a negative regional bias. Recently, the State Bank of India has issued a circular to its Branches not to give loans for plantation of crops like cardamom, rubber, coconut, areca nut, tea and coffee.

Hence I would request you to direct the concerned officials to take immediate steps to make corrections in the Manual by removing ganja, cinchona, and opium from the list of crops and put farmers of the plantation crops such as rubber, coconut, areca nut, tea and coffee and include them in the list of farmers or agricultural labourers.