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Title: Need to implement the price fixing formula for palm oil.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister, through this august House, a matter of urgent public importance regarding oil palm cultivators.

As the House knows, Vizianagaram district occupies third place in India with an approximate cultivation of 15,000 to 20,000 hectares which is a crop promoted by the Government of India to achieve self-sustenance in edible oils. For the last four years, farmers are incurring losses due to unremunerative prices because of the current price fixing formula which is advocated by the Director of Oil Palm Research (ICAR), Eluru.

After several representations by farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a Committee to review the present price fixing formula. I thank the UPA Government for the same. The Committee has now submitted its Report to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Therefore, I urge the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee immediately.