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Title: Need to enhance the Minimum Support Price of copra and restrict the import of palm oil in the country.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Coconut cultivation is the mainstay in the Malabar region of Kerala. The frequent fall in price of Coconut oil is adversely affecting the Coconut growers in Kerala. The Centre has announced minimum support price of Rs.5100 per quintal for copra but the coconut farmers are deprived of this amount. Citing shortage of consumable oil, large scale Palm oil is imported. Palm oil is preferred in hotels and other business places as it is thicker than coconut oil and can be used for larger duration which incidentally is also a health hazard. Import of Palm Oil has been banned in Kerala but it is allowed through the ports in the neighbouring states which has practically made the import ban a laughing stock. On the other hand the restrictions on the export of coconut oil has created problem for coconut growers. The cost of 1 quintal of coconut oil this month is Rs. 6150 which was Rs. 10,000 during the corresponding period last year.

It is requested that the problems of the coconut growers should be examined, import of palm oil be reduced and the minimum support price of Copra be increased to at least Rs. 8000 per quintal.