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Title: Need to take steps to support the cocoa growers in the country.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): Mr. Chairman, Kerala is the leading State in cocoa cultivation. The fall in price of cocoa has put the farmers in a crisis situation and they have started cutting down their trees. Even though cocoa output in the country has been far lower than the demand, the crop is not getting good price. Due to high price of fertilizer and other input cost, farmers are unable to meet the production cost at the current price. The Government sponsored schemes and programmes for the promotion of cocoa cultivation need to be more effectively implemented.

I request the Government to take necessary steps to help cocoa farmers by allowing subsidy and other supportive measures.