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Title: Regarding problems faced by arecanut growers of Karnataka.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): There are 14 States producing arecanut, around 50 per cent of the arecanut production takes place in Karnataka. I urge the Government to fix a Minimum Support Price for arecanut, as the production cost has gone up steeply. The Government should come to the rescue of the farmers by procuring them at the support price. Prices of arecanut have dropped by half to over Rs 28,000 per quintal in the last two years.

Government should look at curtailing imports, which are impacting the price. Arecanut growers are expressing concerns over the import of arecanut. The Centre should increase the minimum price for the import of arecanut. The hike in the Minimum price for import of arecanut will help improve the price of the commodity in the domestic market. Ministry of Commerce should direct the ports to check illegal import of arecanut. I also suggest that arecanut should be brought under the purview of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

I also urge that the Government should introduce Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for arecanut growers who are feeling the heat of drop in prices. The sudden slump in the price of arecanut has left the farmers in dire straits. I also demand that the Government should take corrective steps to check sliding prices.