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Title: Need to enhance the Minimum Support Price of Copra.

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): In my Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency, nearly 92000 hectare area is under coconut cultivation. Due to failure of South-West and North-East monsoon, water level has depleted. Owing to insufficient water and high cost of maintenance, coconut farmers are in dire straits. Hence, the production of copra is dwindling. Due to the monsoon failure only 50% of agriculturists are able to do the Coconut cultivation with great hardship.

Even though 2,02,000 M.T of Copra is being produced, the Agriculturists are facing problems as the support price for Copra fixed by NAFED is only Rs.52.50/kg whereas in the open market it is being traded today around Rs. 110/kg. Hence, the procurement price has to be increased by NAFED to the market level or atleast Rs. 108/.

It would be very helpful to the coconut growers if financial assistance is provided from the Agriculture Price Market Stabilization Fund announced in the Budget 2014-215.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has provided coconut growers Rs. 4,000 per acre. The Central Government should increase the support price of Copra.