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Title: Need to extend agricultural loan to coconut farmers who suffered damage to their crops due to adverse weather condition in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. SELVAKUMARA CHINNAIYAN (ERODE): The hon'ble Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 8 lakh crore as credit support to the agriculture sector in this year's Budget and expressed the hope that banks would utilize this amount in providing loans to farmers. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Central Government that for the past two years, many States are experiencing drought. In Tamil Nadu, the farmers could not raise any crops due to severe drought as the monsoon has failed successively for the past two years. Many coconut trees have dried up with the result that the coconut growers have been put to a great loss.

Due to severe drought condition in Tamil Nadu, farmers could not repay the loans which they have already taken from the nationalized banks. Though the present Government has sanctioned Rs. 8 lakh crore as credit support to agriculture sector this year, the defaulters would not be able to avail this benefit. Hence, I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister to consider this issue sympathetically and issue suitable directions to all the nationalized banks so as to help the needy farmers of our country.