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Title: Need to take welfare measures for coconut farmers in Tamil Nadu particularly in the Pudukottai district.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): In Tamil Nadu, our beloved leader, Dr. Amma, the people's Chief Minister evolved plans to double the agricultural production and to increase the agricultural income three-fold. Coconut Development Board and Research Centre was set up at the instance of the State Government. India ranks first in the world in coconut productivity and stands second in coconut production. Though Tamil Nadu ranks second in the country, the coconut farmers of Tamil Nadu are not getting appropriate assistance from the Centre. These days coconut trees are affected by so many factors. In Kerala such affected plantations got Rs. 641 crore as central assistance for replantation whereas Tamil Nadu could not get proportionate compensation. It is stated that only the coconut farmers' producer companies are eligible to get various Central incentives. In Kerala there are 12 such companies and in Karnataka there are 4, whereas in Tamil Nadu, we have none. Very recently, the Tamil Nadu small farmers' Agri Business consortium recommended the first such Coconut Farmers Producer Company from Pudukkottai district in my Constituency. I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry to set up a resource institution there to promote increased awareness among the coconut farmers to go in for exporting coconut products. I also urge upon the Centre to give due approval to such companies that are in the process of formation and seeking central assistance.