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title: Regarding opening of a coconut farmers producer company in Pudukkottai District.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, In Tamil Nadu, our beloved leader Amma evolved a plan to double the agricultural production and to increase the agricultural income threefold. The 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 producing farmers of Tamil Nadu are not getting proportionate assistance from the Centre. These days coconut trees are affected by many factors. In Kerala such affected plantations got Rs.641 crore as Central assistance for re-plantation 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, in Karnataka there are four, 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 Centre to give due approval to such coconut farmer company. Thank you.