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Title: Need to increase the procurement price of Copra by NAFED.

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): My Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency has about 92000 Hectare area under coconut cultivation which ranks one-fourth of coconut area in Tamil Nadu.

2.02 lakh M.T of Copra is being produced every year. The copra production is not a sufficient one for the coconut growers to eke out their livelihood. The support price for Milling Copra fixed by NAFED is only Rs.5 5.50 per/kg.

The Copra is being traded in the open market for Rs 65 per/kg only and the coconut growers are very much dejected. To ameliorate their financial crisis , the procurement price has to be hiked to Rs. 140 per Kg by NAFED taking into account the cost of production as well as Consumer Price Index.

The monsoon has supported the agriculturists upto some extent this year and therefore, the production of copra is in surplus. It is a pity to note that NAFED is compelling the concerned State Federations to bear the transport charges due to which the States could not open procurement centres in their States.

Therefore, I request the Minister for Agriculture to increase the Procurement Price of Copra by NAFED to Rs.140/- from the existing Rs.55.50 per/Kg and issue necessary orders to waive off the condition of transportation charges to be borne by the concerned States.