

[Shri Mullappally Ramachandran]

Besides its sportsmen and sports fans Cannanore also has a most befitting topography with easy access to all modes of transport which include the Mangalore airport about 2½ hours drive from here.

Further, Cannanore does not suffer from want of sufficient space suited for any sports and games activities.

Keeping in view the above facts, Cannanore is an ideal place for the location of a sports complex in Kerala. Permitting the Sports Complex to be founded at Cannanore will be a befitting and highly deserving recognition given to the rich talent of this place.

I request the hon. Prime Minister to take necessary steps to set up a Sports Complex at Cannanore in Kerala.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) Need to provide financial assistance and drip irrigation facilities and bore-wells to farmers of Karnataka to save coconut and arecanut crops

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SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Tumkur and other places like Tipur, Chikkanayakanhalli, Turuvekere, Gubbi, Sira, Hasnan Channarayapatna, Arasikere, Kadur, Chikkamagalur, Bengalore, Chennapatna, Hiriyur, Hosadurga, etc. in Karnataka grow coconut and arecanut abundantly. Arecanut and coconut are the main cash crops in the above said areas and many farmers are fully depending upon these crops. From these areas arecanuts and coconut are sent to all parts of the country. But unfortunately as there was not sufficient rain in these areas the farmers are distraught. The production of arecanut and coconut has declined by 75%. This year also there is no rain in these areas and the crops have withered away. Therefore, the Central Government should come

forward to provide facilities for drip irrigation and bore wells to the farmers. If such new schemes of irrigation are not taken up for implementation immediately I am sure that the cultivation of arecanut and coconut would cease. All kinds of subsidy and loans should be granted to these farmers. Each farmer should get at least five thousand rupees per acre.

Therefore I request the hon. Minister to sanction at least one hundred crores of rupees for this purpose, and save the farmers from becoming extinct.

[*English*]

- (vii) Demand for reduction in recently enhanced air fare between Agartala and Calcutta and to develop infra-structural facilities for development of the State

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West): People, irrespective of party affiliations, and the Government of Tripura, have been pleading for years for better Railway communications, Telecommunications facilities and more industries for providing employment to people in Tripura. The State is a flood prone area and every year a large number of people fall victim to catastrophic floods which submerge all major roads, dislocating the entire transport system in the State. The only other means of travel—by air—has become 14.5% more expensive recently and thus has become a prohibitive means for commoners. Moreover, computerised booking system resulted in trouble in obtaining confirmed air tickets. The flights are limited for a large number of passengers daily. There is a single Boeing flight to Calcutta and that is not able to cope with the heavy rush of the passengers' demands. The nearest railway station, Dharmanagar, is 200 kms. away from the capital city of Agartala. Similarly, the telecommunications system has remained unchanged. The State Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution, during the Budget session demanding subsidy @ 25% for the increased air fare or

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.