

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri B.K. Hariprasad. *...(Interruptions)...*
Shri B. K. Hariprasad. *...(Interruptions)...* Shri B.K. Hariprasad. *...(Interruptions)...*
Shri K. K. Ragesh. *...(Interruptions)...*

Unprecedented fall in the prices of coconut

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I rise to raise a very important issue that affects the coconut sector in our country. *...(Interruptions)...* It is going to affect not only the State of Kerala, but also the entire country. *...(Interruptions)...* Recently, the price of coconut has fallen steeply. *...(Interruptions)...* Three years back, the prices of coconut were fifteen to twenty rupees per nut. Now, the prices have fallen down steeply to eight rupees per nut. *...(Interruptions)...* And, the main reason for this steep fall in the price of coconut is the unprecedented import of coconut oil. *...(Interruptions)...* The official data shows that the FMCG major MARICO alone had imported 11,000 tonnes of coconut oil during last December. *...(Interruptions)...* *...(Interruptions)...* Again, the State-owned STC had also imported 2,000 tonnes of coconut oil. *...(Interruptions)...* In fact, it is the unprecedented import of coconut oil that has resulted in the demand crunch in the domestic market which, ultimately, led to the steep fall in prices. *...(Interruptions)...* The data of the Coconut Development Board shows that the coconut production, in our country, has been increasing year after year since 2011. *...(Interruptions)...* When our coconut production is adequately meeting our domestic requirement, why is the Government allowing imports? *...(Interruptions)...* It is adversely affecting all the Southern States. *...(Interruptions)...* The coconut oil is mainly used by the cosmetic industry. *...(Interruptions)...* Why is the industry not purchasing coconut oil from the domestic market? *...(Interruptions)...* Because industry is depending on imports *...(Interruptions)...* It is quite amazing that on the one hand the prices of coconut are dropping drastically; on the other, there is no fall in the prices of cosmetic products. *...(Interruptions)...* It is quite obvious that the multi-national giants, like the Hindustan Lever, are fishing in troubled waters and are earning huge profits. *...(Interruptions)...* This is not serving the interests of the farmers. *...(Interruptions)...* Such an approach is going to affect the State of Kerala in a big way. *...(Interruptions)...* coconut is being cultivated on around eight lakh hectares of land in Kerala alone. *...(Interruptions)...* Approximately 30 lakh farmers are dependent on coconut cultivation. *...(Interruptions)...* The rubber plantation has also met the same fate. *...(Interruptions)...* I would like to urge upon the Government to impose a ban on the import of coconut oil and help the distressed farmers. *...(Interruptions)...* The State Trading Corporation should be directed to put an end TO the import of coconut oil and procure it from the domestic market. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri K. K. Ragesh has said. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri K. K. Ragesh has said. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Jesudasu Seelam. ...(Interruptions)...

Suicide by a young man in Tirupathi demanding special category status to Andhra Pradesh

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to raise the issue of granting 'special category' status to the State of Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)... A young man recently committed suicide demanding special category status for Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)... I would like to know when the Government would fulfill the commitments made in this House regarding 'special category' status to the State of Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)... What happened to the promises made by the then Prime Minister? ...(Interruptions)... I would like to know whether the decisions taken by the entire House are binding on the Government or not. ...(Interruptions)... The Prime Minister should clarify why ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sanjiv Kumar has already raised his matter. ...(Interruptions)... There are no more Zero Hour notices. ...(Interruptions)... So, I am adjourning the House. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 12:00 hours.

The House then adjourned at thirty-eight minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Deemed university status to cancer institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai

*226. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to start new oncology courses for the development of oncological experts in the field of cancer treatment and care and also for the Research and Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of Oncologists and Surgical Oncologists available in the country, as on date;

(c) whether Government has received any requests to accord Deemed University status for the Cancer Institute (WIA) at Adyar, Chennai for conducting specialised cancer research courses and to produce more oncological experts; and