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In a letter sent to the PM on Monday, Stalin said the target set for copra procurement from Tamil Nadu was only 56,000 tonne. However, within a span of just three months, 47, 513 tonne of copra had been procured. "Since huge stocks of copra were still left with the farmers and the price of copra has dwindled in the market, the Centre should increase the procurement target for Tamil Nadu and procure more copra from the farmers," he said. Stalin wanted the Centre to increase the procurement to 90,000 tonne a year. He also sought the PM to issue appropriate instructions to the agriculture ministry to revise the ceiling for procurement from the present 25% to 40% enabling procurement of a higher quantity of copra. Stalin said Tamil Nadu stands third in area (4.46 lakh hectares) and productivity (11,692 nuts per hectare) and second in production of coconut at the national level. "Innumerable requests have been received from the coconut growers across the state to increase the procurement target under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) of the Government of India," he wrote in the letter. The PSS scheme ensures a minimum support price for farmers and helps stabilise market prices of agricultural commodities. Stalin noted that though copra procurement under PSS was initiated in Tamil Nadu in 2019, the procurement was negligible during the initial years as the market prices were well above the MSP. However, from 2022 onwards, the trend reversed due to increased production of coconut. As a result, the market price of coconut declined from about Rs 2,500 per quintal to Rs 1 500 per quintal. Similarly, the market price of copra declined from nearly Rs 11,500 per quintal to Rs 8,100 per quintal, he said. This had resulted in growing demand for an increase in the procurement of copra under PSS since 2022, he said, emphasising the Centre to spike the procurement quantity. 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