

173 Coconut Producers' Federations to Get Licence for Neera Tapping Soon: K Babu

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Kochi: Excise Minister K Babu on Monday said that all the 173 Coconut Producers' Federations that had applied for licence to tap 'neera' would be issued licences soon. He was speaking at the commercial launch of the premium brand neera and other value-added products of the Thiruckochi Coconut Producer Company at a function held at the headquarters of the Coconut Development Board in Kochi. The Min-

ister assured that the Excise Department would soon take a decision in favour of the coconut growers/farmers in the State. "The decision to issue licence to the Federations for tapping neera marks the amendment of the 112-year-old system introduced by the erstwhile British rulers," said Coconut Development Board chairman T K Jose. "The initiative

is the christma's New Year gift to farmers. As per the projects submitted by the companies, only 40 per cent of the neera would be sold as bottled drink, and the rest would be converted into value-added products," Jose added. On the occasion, Kochi Mayor Tony Chammany inaugurated the commercial launch of 'Neera Cake', produced by the

Thiruckochi Coconut Producer Company. Company chairman Joseph Babu, who chaired the meeting, said that the Company's plant would be inaugurated by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy within three months. Elias K Tharyan and Company CEO Biju John also spoke.



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