

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The new Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme which has been introduced with effect from Kharif 1985 season covers Rice, Wheat, Millets, Oilseeds and Pulses. Presently there is no proposal to cover plantain/banana under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Allocation of Rice and Wheat to West Bengal

1915. SHRI SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly allocation of rice and wheat to West Bengal for distribution through ration shops ;

(b) whether the quota was reduced during the year when West Bengal suffered from a serious drought ; and

(c) whether the monthly quota of West Bengal will be raised to ensure adequate supplies through the Public Distribution System ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The Government of West Bengal is allotted 1, 10,000 tonnes of rice and 1,26,000 tonnes of wheat for public distribution system each month.

(b) There has been no reduction in allocation of foodgrains to West Bengal during the past two years. On the other hand, the monthly allocation of wheat for public distribution system was raised from 1,05,000 tonnes in December, 1983 to 1,26,000 tonnes in January, 1984.

(c) Allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool are made on a month to month basis, taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central

Pool, relative needs of the various States market availability and other related factors. The allocations from the Central Pool are only supplemental to the open market availability.

Production of Coconut Palms

1916. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the production of Coconut palms in the country at present ;

(b) whether any scientific methods are being applied to increase the productivity of palms ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the result achieved so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) According to the latest available estimates, production of coconut in the country during 1983-84 was 5871 million nuts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of schemes are being implemented through Coconut Development Board in addition to a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Coconut both in traditional and non-traditional areas. The main components of these schemes are subsidy for area expansion, supply of high quality planting material, demonstration of improved technology etc. During Sixth Plan period, an area of 4,43,000 hectares has been covered under improved technology in major coconut growing states, about 7.7 lakh high-yielding hybrid seedlings were produced and distributed in addition to 10 lakh seedlings provided for rejuvenation of old plantations. An area of 5500 hectare was covered under rejuvenation programme for which about 3000 tonnes of fertilisers were supplied.