tent. Export of oilcakes is allowed only after the oil is extracted under the solvent extraction process. Such exports of oil cakes, based on imported oilseeds, may seriously jeopardize our own efforts for increasing export markets for oil cakes made out of oilseeds grown within the country.

(e) The edible oils imported during the last three financial years are as under :

Financial Qty. imported	Value
(in lakh tonnes)	(Rs. in crores)
9. 80	418.00
14.09	846.00
15.85	1309.00
	(in lakh tonnes) 9.80 14.09

The quantum of edible oil to be imported in a particular year depends upon the availability of indigenous oils, likely demand of edible oils, availability of foreign exchange and other related factors.

Recognition of Coconut as Oilseed

2028. SHRI T. BASHEER : SHRI P. A. ANTHONY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coconut is categorised as an oilseed in the Seventh Plan documents;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government of Kerala have suggested recognition of coconut as an oilseed; and

(d) if so, steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGEN-DRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. (b) Coconut is a plantation crop of oil bearing palms and only a small part of its production is being used as edible oil.

(c) and (d) No formal proposal has been received from Government of Kerala for treating coconut as oilseed. However, the Government have been providing following subsidies for coconut development.

- (i) Under area expansion programme Rs. 3000/ per hectare to coconut growers whose holdings are less than 2 hectare;
- (ii) for removal of root wilt affected palms Rs. 75/- for each diseased palm cut and removed; (iii) under rejuvenation programme 50% subsidy on cost of hybrid planting material and other inputs; and (iv) subsidy, limited to Rs. 1000/- for pumpsets.

Poverty alleviation programme for rural people

2029. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given greater importance in Seventh Plan on alleviation of poverty of the rural people;

(b) if so, the schemes proposed to be implemented under various rural development programme;

(c) whether Government propose to allocate additional amount to the backward State like Orissa for implementing various poverty alleviation programmes; and

(d) if so, the criteria fixed for allocating funds for implementing such programmes in the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOP-MENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major rural development pro. grammes will continue to be the same viz.