

### Protection to Coconut Growers

1125. SHRI T. BASHEER :  
SHRI R. KUNJAMBU :  
SHRI VAKKOM PURSHOTHA-  
MAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken some steps to save the coconut cultivators in the country whose fortunes have reached the lowest point due to low yield and low prices; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The following steps have been taken for development of coconut and to ensure remunerative price to the coconut growers in the country :

- (i) Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored programmes are implemented for development of coconut in the country such as programme for assistance for removal of root wilt affected palms; rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive plantations in Kerala; project for providing assistance for irrigation facilities to coconut growers; and project for eradication of root wilt in Tamil Nadu aimed at increasing productivity;
- (ii) Government have introduced programme for market intervention for purchase of copra at the rate of Rs. 1200 per quintal, in Kerala and Lakshdweep;
- (iii) Government of India have restricted import of coconut oil till its availability and prices remain at a reasonable level for the consumers;
- (iv) Export of dehusked coconut has been allowed through NAFED within a further ceiling of 500 MTs

during 1985-86 without any condition of minimum export price. The export of copra/coconut products have also been allowed within the ceiling of 500 MTs during 1985-86.

As a result of the implementation of the above programmes, the coconut cultivators are getting assistance for improving yield and for obtaining a minimum price for their produce.

### Extension of Crop Insurance Scheme to Commercial Crops

1126. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA  
REDDY :  
SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals with the Union Government for widening the scope of crop insurance scheme so that it may cover crops other than commercial crops;

(b) whether Government have received suggestions to this effect from experts and people interested in farming; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The comprehensive crop insurance scheme introduced by the Government in the country with effect from Kharif, 1985, covers rice, wheat, millets, oil-seeds and pulses. The Government had received certain suggestions for including some other crops like cotton, sugarcane, horticultural crops, potato etc. in the scheme. A Committee was set up to examine the suggestions and make suitable recommendations. This Committee has submitted its report recently.

### Study about loans given to farmers

1127. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :