

### Appearance of New Disease in Oil Palm and Coconut

7208. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new disease "spear rot complex" has appeared in oilpalm plants, if so, the details of its appearance and remedies found ;

(b) whether another new disease "quick yellow decline" has also appeared in the case of coconut in addition to coconut root wilt which remains to be controlled ; and

(c) whether productivity of coconut has been falling steeply in Kerala and other States and if so, the details thereof and remedial steps proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The new disease in oil palm is the spear rot complex. The disease occurs sporadically in low lying areas and is characterised by yellowing of the inner whorl of leaves with a subsequent decline in general vigour and productivity of the palm. In advance stages, the spear rot sets in. The disease has been noticed since 1985 and is being investigated to find out the causal organisms and to evolve suitable control measures.

(b) Yes, Sir. Another disease reported recently in coconut is the Quick (Yellow) decline which is generally seen in the root wilt affected areas at present.

(c) There had been a decline in coconut production in Kerala till 1983-84. During the year 1984-85 the yield increased to 4,925 nuts per hectare from 3,815 nuts per hectare in the preceding year. Old age of the palms, poor management, diseases such as root wilt of coconut and over populated stand (about 225 palms per hectare against the recommended 175) are some of the major factors contributing to the low productivity. There is no similar decline in productivity of coconut in other states. Adoption of package of practices like fertilizer application, irrigation,

organic recycling through mixed farming, growing inter and mixed crops, replacing senile and unproductive plantations with high yielding varieties and hybrids, control of leaf rot by spraying 1 percent Bordeaux mixture and containing root wilt disease by uprooting the diseased palms in the mildly affected areas, are the measures being taken up at present to increase the productivity of the coconut in the state.

### Delay in Allotment of Flats Under HUDCO Pattern Scheme, 1979

7209. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether in view of the long delay in allotting flats to persons registered under HUDCO Pattern Scheme, 1979, Government will consider the reduction in interest rate in the case of Hire Purchase system allottees and enhance the instalment period to enable the allottees to pay without much hardship ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : The span or instalments in case of allotments under the scheme has already been enhanced from 7, 10, 15 years to 10, 15 and 20 years in case of MIG, LIG and Janta respectively. There is no proposals further to enhance the instalment period.

### Pilot Project on Child Labour

7210. DR. B. L. SHAILESH :  
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of the pilot project on child labour prepared with the assistance of the International Labour Organisation ; and

(b) the steps being taken to push through this project keeping in view the objectives of improving the condition of child labour, protecting children against exploitation and the gradual elimination of child labour by adopting measures that bear on the factors that generate and sustain it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). A pilot pro-