

**Damage to coconut trees by Red Palm Weevil in Pondicherry**

5785. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether disease called 'Red Palm Weevil' has damaged 70 per cent of tender coconut trees below the age of ten years in Pondicherry areas; and

(b) the details of steps contemplated to control and contain this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The recent information received from the Administration of Union Territory of Pondicherry reveals that an insect known as Red Palm Weevil damages tender coconut trees. The extent of such a damage is reported to be of the order of 20 per cent in the total palm area of 18,000 hectares which could not be considered as alarming.

(b) The Union Territory has taken the following steps to control and contain the pest :

- (i) The chemical control of the pest has been recommended by using promising insecticides like dichlorovos and monocrotophos.
- (ii) The pesticides are being distributed to the cultivators at 25 per cent subsidy by the Administration of U.T., of Pondicherry.
- (iii) Farmers have been/are being educated to undertake the cultural and preventive methods against the pest.

**Loss to groundnut crop due to 'Red Hairy Caterpillars'**

5786. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the enormous loss caused to groundnut crop by the 'Red hairy caterpillars';

(b) if so, the loss caused thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to combat this menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Sir, there are no reports of enormous losses caused to groundnut crop by the red hairy caterpillars.

However, in Andhra Pradesh sporadic incidence of the pest below economic threshold level over an area of 12,500 ha. has been reported in Mahbubnagar district. The pest has been controlled effectively by taking timely plant protection measures.

In Karnataka, the pest has been noticed in 28,000 hectares with losses varying between 10 per cent to 15 per cent approximately.

The entire area has been brought under control by the efforts of farmers and State agencies.

State Government have extended subsidy on pesticides at a cost of Rs. 2.75 lakhs.

[Translation]

Coverage of population by Doordarshan in U.P.

5787. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :  
SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in implementation of Doordarshan Schemes for Uttar Pradesh included in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the percentage of rural population in Uttar Pradesh covered at present by Doordarshan ?