

Area Under Paddy Cultivation in Kerala

4662. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp decrease in area under paddy cultivation in Kerala over the recent years;

(b) if so, the exact decrease in the area during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check diversion of rice fields for other crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a): Yes, Sir. The rate of growth of area under paddy in Kerala during 1980-81 to 1988-89 was estimated at (-) 4.20 per cent per annum.

(b): The area under paddy during the last four years ending 1990-91 in the Kerala State is as under:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Area under Paddy (in thousand ha.)</i>
1987-88	604.0
1988-89	577.5
1989-90	578.2
1990-91	559.4

(c): The decline in area under paddy cultivation in Kerala in recent years was mainly due to shift in area to non-foodgrain crops particularly oilseeds/coconut. The Government is not proposing to check the diversion of rice area to non-foodgrain crops but is taking steps to increase paddy production by improving the yield per hectare.

Rained Agriculture

4663. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Research and Development projects implemented for improving productive potential of rainfed land;

(b) the financial assistance provided to these projects so far; and

(c) the achievements made under these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b): An All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture is being operated. During the Course of VIth & VIIth Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 930.00 lakhs was provided for research.

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA) has been in operation from 7th Five Year Plan. A sum of Rs. 281.85 crores has been provided so far.

(c): Achievements in Research and Development Systems include improved cropping, cost-effective and location specific soil and water conservation measures enhancing the resilience of production systems during aberrant weather conditions, evolution and promotion of drought resistant crop variety, improved silvi-pastoral systems, runoff management etc.

Control of Kolshi Pest in Orange Seeds

4665. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjabra Krishi Vidyapeeth

of Akoa has developed new variety of orange seeds which are resistant to insects and pests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large number of orange trees are infected with a pest called 'Kolshi'; and

(d) If so, the steps taken to control this pest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA). (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Incidence of "Kolshi" caused by black fly was high during 1986-87. Subsequently it was brought under check.

(d) A well tested technology for chemical control of the pest has been developed and demonstrated at the farmers' fields. The Central Govt. has also extended financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra under the Centrally sponsored scheme entitled "Control of important pests & diseases" which covers 'Kolshi' (black fly) also.

Theft of Idol from Shrine in Jammu

4666. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ancient idol has been stolen from a shrine in Jammu recently;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to restore the idol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. JACOB): (a) to (c): The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have intimated that an Idol of Sarthal Mata temple at Kishtwar, District Doda which was stolen on the night of February 8/9, 1992 had since been recovered from village Bewa, two kms. away from Sarthal on 7th March, 1992. 7 persons, who were reportedly connected with this theft, have been arrested.

Assistance to Victims of Flood and Cyclone in Tamil Nadu

4667. SHRI K.V THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Calamity Relief Fund has been exhausted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in providing immediate relief to the victims of flood and cyclone;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to take up with the World Bank the project prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu to undertake major reconstruction works in flood affected areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a): According to information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu an amount of Rs. 28.63 crores has been spent from the Calamity Relief Fund upto December, 1991 out of a total annual allocation of Rs.39.00 crores.

(b) and (c): The Government of India has not received any project from the Government of Tamil Nadu for posing to World Bank for assistance for reconstruction works in flood affected areas.