

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That is right. We will do it.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal for the development of prawn hatchery in Bihar which is adjacent to West Bengal. It is also interested in the development of prawn.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: At the moment, there is no proposal to start a hatchery in the State of Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Only non-vegetarians will be allowed to ask questions!

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It is good that the hon. Minister has said that the Government of India is going to take initiatives for the fresh water prawn culture.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal sent by the Orissa Government of India for brackish water prawn culture and also the sweet water prawn culture has been cleared or not and if not, will it be possible for the Government of India to clear the project soon?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question restricted to Orissa. If you have the information you can give now.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Best prawns are available only in Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: But the main question relates to the entire country as such.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: The proposal had come from the state of Orissa and our Ministry did not clear that proposal.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, I understand that recently a survey was conducted to have prawn culture in Tuticorin and in sub-urban area of Madras near Gummipundi.

Further, I would like to inform the hon. Minister....(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: No. You are prohibited from giving the information. You are allowed to ask the question. Please come to the question.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: So, in view of the fact that there are large acres of land by the side of the sea in Tuticorin and near Gummipundi, is there any project or proposal with the Ministry to have the prawn culture in these areas?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, at the moment, we do not have any proposal to have any hatchery at Tuticorin. If such proposal comes from the State Government, we will definitely examine and possible steps will be taken by the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 228.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I have to make one correction. The proposal from Orissa has come and we have just cleared the project.

MR. SPEAKER: Good. You have got a positive reply.

Coconut Development Board

*228 **SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities undertaken and results achieved by the Coconut Development Board during the last three years in Kerala; and

(b) the action plan drawn up for development of coconut plantations in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(a) The development programmes and achievements of the Coconut Development Board, in Kerala, during the last three years are as follow:-

STATEMENT

(a) The development programmes and achievements of the Coconut Development Board, in Kerala, during the last three years are as follow:-

(1)	Expension of area	- 2640	ha.
(2)	Production and distribution of TxD seedlings (No.)	- 1.41	lakh
(3)	Establishment of seed garden for DxT hybrids	- 200	ha.
(4)	Coverage of area under productivity improvement scheme	- 30,000	ha.
(5)	Assistance for irrigation facilities		
	(i) No. of pumpsets	- 2176	
	(ii) No. of drip irrigation	- 47	
	Expenditure incurred by Coconut Development Board for coconut development in Kerala during the last three years.	- Rs. 115.25	lakhs

(b) A tentative allocation of Rs. 350 lakh is proposed for coconut development in Kerala during 1992-93. The following will be the trust areas:-

1. Enhanced productivity.
2. Rehabilitation of diseased coconut holdings.
3. Integrated control of pests and diseases.
4. Increased production of quality hybrid seedlings.
5. Establishment of Demonstration-cum-seed Farms.
6. Production and marketing of value added coconut products.

7. Establishment of Coconut Technology Development Centre.

SHRITHYILJOHNANJALOSE: Coconut is the backbone of the Kerala economy. The recent decline in the price of coconut is seriously affecting the growers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any programme or project to find a solution to this decline in the price of coconut.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Of Course, it is in the notice of the Ministry. It may please be noted that the price of copra has shot up from Rs. 2350 in January 1991 to Rs. 3390 in November 1991. However, there has been a fall in copra price to Rs. 3000 in January 1992. But the prices recovered to Rs. 3090 in February 1992. But if one compares the February 1992 price to February 1991 price, it is seen

that there has been a rise. Anyway, I also share the sentiments and the concern expressed by the hon. Members; and my Ministry will take every step to alert the State Government to ensure remunerative prices to the coconut growers all over the country.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Coconut cultivation in Kerala is a facing serious threat from rootwilt and other diseases. Has the Government got any project to find a solution to this problem?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Of course, rootwilt is a debilitating disease affecting coconut cultivation in the State of Kerala; and of course so many steps are being taken by the Ministry to eradicate this disease. Certain recommendations have been made by the Department. They are as follows:

1. Removal of all affected seedlings in the pre-bearing age, along with palms in the advanced stage of disease;
2. Replanting with seedlings of high yielding genotypes;
3. Application of balanced dose of fertilizers and use of green manure in the basin;
4. Irrigating the palms during summer and avoiding water-logging by providing proper drainage;
5. Raising inter-crops in a rotation or a mixed farming with recycling of organic matter.

For the removal of debilitating disease affecting trees, we are giving Rs. 75 per tree; and the amount has been enhanced to Rs. 100 per tree.

SHRI KODIKUNIL SURESH: In Kerala lots of coconut trees are affected by different types of diseases and they are unused. In this situation, the coconut farmers are

facing lot of problems and lose their money. Is it a fact whether the Government of India is considering giving financial assistance to coconut farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Just one minute before he had replied to that question.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): We are providing Rs. 3000 per hectare; that is in stages Rs. 1000 each year for replanting.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject matter under discussion is cultivation of coconut in Kerala. Is the Government formulating any scheme mainly for Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for coconut cultivation there? It may be possible that there is resistance in the soil of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to the disease which affects the cultivation of coconut in Kerala. Therefore, why is the Government not doing anything for the development of coconut cultivation there?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: For it, you have to pray for change in climate.

Post-Matric Scholarship to SC/ST Students

*229. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when the rates of post-matric scholarship for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were revised by the Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) the price-index at the time of implementing the revised rates alongwith the present price-index;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the rates of scholarship in the beginning of every academic year on the basis of existing price-index; and