

**Town areas covered by LPT Koraput,  
Orissa**

1043. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the towns and tribal villages which are covered by the L.P.T. (Low Power Transmitter) Koraput, Orissa;

(b) distance covered and the total population Benefited;

(c) whether Jeypore Town was included in the coverage list of the LPT Koraput when it was surveyed;

(d) if so, how this town has been left out though the town was situated in the coverage range; while installing the tower; and

(e) the steps taken by his Ministry to provide T.V. coverage to Jeypore Town ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). The Low Power T. V. Transmitter at Koraput has a service range of about 25 Kms. However, no detailed survey has been carried out about the places population actually covered by the transmitter.

(c) and (d). TV transmitter at Koraput was mainly set up for providing service to project areas of HAL and NALCo. Jeypore town, though within the nominal service range of LPT Koraput, falls in the shadow zone caused by the intervening hill and is, therefore, not covered.

(e) The extension of TV coverage to Jeypore would depend on the availability of resources in the future Plans of T. V. Expansion.

**Amount spent on Research on Root-Wilt Disease in Kerala**

1044. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent so far on Research and Development on the root-wilt disease of coconut;

(b) the result achieved so far;

(c) whether any breakthrough has been achieved in finding a cure for this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) According to information received from the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, the total amount spent upto June 1985 on research on coconut root (wilt) disease is around Rs. 28.4 million.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

**Statement**

1. Consistent association of mycoplasma-like organisms (MLOs) has been established in root (wilt) affected palms. MLOs were successfully transmitted through dodder from diseased palms to periwinkles and from infected periwinkles to healthy periwinkles, MLOS were observed in the salivary an brain tissues of lace wing fly, an insect associated with coconut.
2. Using a sero-diahnostic and physiological tests, it is possible to detect the disease 3-9 months before the expression of visual symptoms.
3. Eradication of diseased palms in border areas and localities of sporadic incidence has shown that it is possible to greatly reduce the incidence of the disease from the mildly affected belts.
4. The productivity of disease affected areas can be increased by balanced manuring with NPK and Mg. recycling of organic matter, mixed cropping with crops like cacao and by providing irrigation.
5. An extensive survey undertaken in Kerala has shown that the annual loss due to the disease is 968 million nuts. There is also loss in husk and leaf production.

**Replantation of Coconut Palms**

1045. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a good percentage of the existing coconut trees are sterile and unproductive;

(b) whether the coconut Board has any plan to carry out large scale replantation;

(c) if so, whether any work has been initiated in this direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No systematic survey has been conducted to estimate the percentage of senile (sterile) and unproductive coconut palms in the country.

(b) to (d). No scheme to carry out large scale replantation by the Coconut Development Board has been sanctioned. However, the Board is providing financial assistance in Kerala and Tamil Nadu for removal of disease affected palms at the rate of Rs. 75 per palm and for replanting with improved seedlings. 50% subsidy on cost of seedlings and inputs such as fertiliser and plant protection chemicals is also provided. Under another Scheme for Rejuvenation of Diseased and Unproductive Plantations in Kerala 50% subsidy on cost of hybrid planting material and fertiliser is provided. Besides, under Kerala Agricultural Development Project with World Bank assistance, it is targetted to undertake replanting of senile and unproductive palm in an area of 30,000 hectares.

**Cocount Palms affeted by Root-Wilt Disease and Replanting of Hybrid Disease Resistant Palms**

1046. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimate has been made as to the number of coconut plams affected by the root-wilt disease;

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme for replanting hybrid and disease-resistant palms in the root-wilt affected areas;

(c) whether this scheme is being implemented; and

(d) if so, the result achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) According to a joint survey conducted by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Government of Kerala, Kerala Agricultural University, Coconut Development Board, Central Plant Protection Station of Government of India at Cochin, etc., during August 1984, in eight districts of Kerala, about 29.6 million Coconut palms been found to have been affected by root-wilt disease.

(b) and (c). Ther is no disease resistant variety of coconut palm. Coconut Development Board is providing financial assistance for removal of disease affected palms at the rate of Rs. 75.00 per palm. For replanting with improved seedlings 50% subsidy on cost of seedling and inputs such as fertilizers and plant protection chemicals is also provided. Under another Scheme for rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive plantations in Kerala State, 50% subsidy on cost of hybrid planting material and fertilizer is given.

(d) The Coconut Development Board has distributed 10 lakh seedlings and 3000 tonnes of fertilizers to growers at 50% subsidised rate. 2.04 lakh diseased palms have been removed. Replanting with improved seedlings was don in 60,000 hectares during 5th and 6th Plan in selected areas of Trichur, Ernakulam, Alleppey and Quilon districts of Kerala.

[Translation]

**Deep Sea Fish Ventures**

1047. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH :  
SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :  
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration a scheme for deep sea fishing with the assistance of other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned by the sale of fish so caught ?