

*Statement**A note on coconut diseases*

Amongst the diseases of coconut, the important ones are:

- (i) Root wilt
- (ii) Leaf rot
- (iii) Bud rot
- (iv) Thattipaka disease
- (v) Ganoderma wilt

The salient facts about the five diseases are given below:

(i) *Root wilt*: This is the most destructive disease having spread to about 2.5 lakh hectares of coconut gardens in Central Kerala. The yield reduction is 40-80 percent depending upon the stage and severity of the disease. Loss on this account amount to Rs. 20 crores a year. The affected trees become unproductive but are rarely killed. Despite intensive investigations over two decades, it has not been possible to precisely pin point the causal agent. Association of a virus is suspected and bacteria have also been shown to be associated with roots of diseased plants. In the absence of the knowledge of exact etiology of the disease, a direct control measure has so far not been possible. However, a recent survey of the diseased area has shown that a natural dwarf cross variety had least incidence of the disease in nature. This observation is under confirmation and, when substantiated, may lead not only to increased production of coconut by way of high yielding capacity of this variety, but also a substantial reduction in the incidence of the disease.

(ii) *Leaf rot*: This is caused by a fungus called *Helminthosporium bicolor*. The pathogen is a weak one and is generally associated with trees weakened by the root wilt disease. Spray of oil based copper compound has been found to reduce intensity of the disease, but this operation is somewhat expensive as it has to be repeated every season. It is expected that with the control of the coconut root wilt disease, this problem will have automatically been taken care of.

(iii) *Bud rot*: This disease is sporadic in occurrence over wide areas in Peninsular India during the monsoon season. The causal fungus is *Phytophthora palmivora*. Timely detection of the disease and application of fungicides is known to revive the affected plants.

(iv) *Thattipaka*: This disease is confined to a limited area around Razole in Andhra Pradesh. The cause of this is under investigation. It has certain features common with the coconut root wilt of Kerala.

(v) *Ganoderma wilt*: This is again a fungal disease caused by *Ganoderma lucidum* and occurs in old plants weakened by age and other physiological factors such as high water table. It is confined to a limited area in Tamil Nadu. Proper garden management and drainage are the remedy for this disease.

Effect of water pollution on fishing Industry

3070. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether water pollution is affecting the fisheries industry in India; and

(b) if so, how and to what extent and the measures taken to arrest this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Studies which have been carried out on river systems indicate that water pollution is affecting fisheries in India in certain regions. The major pollutions are industrial effluents although untreated domestic sewage and certain pesticides used for agricultural purposes also contribute to the problem. The Bombay side of the Kalu river and the Bay of Bombay, the Ganges in the Kanpur region and the tidal portion of the Hooghly river near Calcutta are among the areas most affected. Fish mortality is also known to occur in tanks, ponds and reservoirs as a result of pollution by pesticides sprayed on crops in neighbouring areas. Instances of marine pollution are rare, although a few cases of fish life being affected as a result of

discharge of oil from vessels have been reported.

(b) Legislation for prevention of water pollution has been brought before Parliament by the Ministry of Health, Family Planning, Works, Housing and Urban Development. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and some other States have made provision in their fisheries legislation for control of pollution in their waters. The Indian Standards Institution has laid down standards for pollutants discharged from several types of industries. The services of an FAO Expert were obtained by the Ministry of Agriculture to study the problem of research on water pollution in relation to inland fisheries. Based on his recommendations the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute has drawn up a programme for intensification of research on the effects of water pollution on fisheries wealth. Investigation on different aspect of the problem are being tackled by various Institutions such as the Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. A Committee has been constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to coordinate water pollution research by the various organisations dealing with the problem. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has taken up a programme of research on certain aspects of marine pollution.

Implementation of Recommendations of Electricity Wage Board

3071. SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wage Board for Electricity Undertakings has submitted its report;

(a) if so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table;

(c) the States or Electricity Boards which have accepted the recommendations of the said Board and dates from which new pay scales have been introduced;

(d) the pay scales in various States or Electricity Boards together with bonus, gratuity and other facilities; and

(e) the steps being taken to get the recommendations implemented in States/Boards where the same have yet to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). The Central Wage Board for Electricity Undertakings submitted its final report to Government on 19th December, 1969 and its recommendations were accepted by Government in terms of their Resolution No. WB-15 (17)/69 dated 13-7-70. Copy of the Resolution was placed on the Lok Sabha on 28th July, 1970 and copies of the Board's report were sent to the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

(e) The implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations is being secured through the State Governments who are making efforts to secure implementation wherever the recommendations have not been implemented so far.

बिभिन्न राज्यों में चीनी का मूल्य

3072. श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :
श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :

क्या कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस समय मध्य प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, मैसूर, उत्तर प्रदेश, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में चीनी का प्रति किंटल मूल्य कितना है ।

कृषि मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री शेर सिंह) : मध्य प्रदेश, तमिल नाडु, मैसूर, उत्तर प्रदेश, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में 17 जून, 1971 का चुने हुए केन्द्रों पर चीनी के थोक मूल्य बताने वाला एक विवरण सलग्न है ।