

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3182
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
DISEASES IN COCONUT PLANTATION
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Coconut Development Board is functioning without a full time Chairman presently;
- (b) whether lack of top management has effected the capacity of the Coconut Development Board to meet the challenge of mite and other diseases harming coconut plantations all over the country;
- (c) if so, whether Government have examined the long term impact of in- activity with regard to potential loss of production in the coconut sector; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the situation? A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

a): Yes, Sir. Coconut Development Board do not have a full time Chairman at present. However, Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been given additional charge of Chairman, Coconut Development Board.

(b) & (c):- The Coconut Development Board is discharging all its legitimate duties efficiently with its staff and officers at the headquarters, 3 regional offices and 6 State centres under the guidance of Chairman in-charge of the Coconut Development Board.

The Board has played a key role starting from the identification of the problem of coconut mite, sensitising the issue for research support, creating awareness for its management through publication of literature and coordination of training. Research efforts in State Agriculture Universities as well as Central Plantation Crops Research Institute have been intensified. Chairman In-charge, Coconut Development Board as Chairman of Steering Committee is regularly monitoring the research and development work relating to control of mite.

(d): During 1999-2000, the Coconut Development Board is implementing programmes for increasing production and productivity of coconuts besides promoting product diversification and by-product utilisation with an outlay of Rs.21.00 crores. When the incidence of mite was reported in 1998, the Board extended financial assistance of Rs.96 lakhs to Kerala; Rs.50.40 lakh to Karnataka and Rs.25.00 lakhs to Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 for adopting plant protection measures against the pest under the Board's programme of Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement. The Board has also entrusted a study to Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for evolving bio- control measures against the pest.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research has formulated a network project for control of Eriophyid Mite in coconut at a cost of Rs.142.00 lakhs for 3 years with emphasis on biological control.