

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5656  
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001  
MARKETING OF NEERA  
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka has expressed its inability to market 1,260 crore litres of Neera which is likely to be produced from the eight crore coconut trees in the State;
- (b) if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought the help of Central Food Technology and Research Institute which studying the possibility of preservation of Neera;
- (d) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has agreed to take a decision only after receiving the report;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): Government of Karnataka has reported that sale of toddy is banned except in 4 districts of the State. They have further reported that the coconut trees fall under the definition of excise trees and cannot be allowed for tapping. Considering the demand, in view of the pattern of liquor consumption in the State over the years, 1,260 crore litres of Neera has no scope for utilization in the State.

(c): Government of Karnataka has sought help of Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysore for analysis of Neera with respect to its composition, microbiological quality and nutritive value. They have also sought help for evaluation of suitable preservatives, their influence on the product quality, stability; and evaluation of suitable processing treatments, including development of suitable packaging system and shelf stability.

(d) to (f): No decision has been communicated by the State Government.