

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4582

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005

MITE AFFECTED COCONUT TREES

Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi;Raju Pallam Mangapati Shri Mallipudi;Satheedevi Smt. P.;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has succeeded in controlling the Mandi virus disease (coconut mite) which affected large number of coconut trees in Lakshadweep, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to eradicate the disease;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received any request from the said State Governments for financial assistance to destroy the mite infected coconut trees;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The adoption of Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrition Management and Integrated Water Management packages, as recommended by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Mite constituted by the Government of India, has helped farmers in managing coconut mite to a great extent. Awareness programmes on these packages are being conducted for sensitizing the farmers and disseminating recommended strategies for controlling mite infestation. The survey conducted by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod, Kerala in 2004 reveals that the percentage of infested nuts suffering from high intensity of damage fell to below 10% from the level of 29-33% recorded during the early period of incidence.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 5413.82 lakhs has been released, as per the details given below, to the State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for extending financial assistance for adopting control measures to check the mite problem:

(Rs. in lakh)

State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total
Kerala	96.00	488.00	2424.00	3009.00	
Tamil Nadu	25.00	79.42	950.00	1054.42	
Karnataka	50.40	100.00	740.00	460.00	1350.40
Total	171.40	667.42	4115.00	460.00	5413.82