

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
ARECANUT FARMERS
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that arecanut farmers are facing difficulty;
- (b) if so, the details of prices of arecanut available to farmers during each of the last three years;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help farmers to get better prices;
- (d) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any scheme in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): In the light of various representations from Arecanut growers, the Government constituted an Expert Committee headed by the Chairman of the Coconut Development Board to look into various issues of the Arecanut industry.

(b): The prices of Arecanut over the last three years has shown an upward trend, as indicated below:

Annual average price at Calicut Market

Year Rate per Quintal (Rupees)

2001-02	3843
2002-03	4005
2003-2004 (upto May 2004)	5138

(c): To protect the interest of Arecanut farmers, the Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The scheme is implemented on a specific request from the State Government and its willingness to share 50% losses, if any, in its operations. Also the import duty on Arecanut has been increased from 35% to 100%.

(d)&(e): During 2004-05, no proposal from any State Government including Kerala has been received for implementing MIS for Arecanut. However, during 2002-03, a proposal was received from the Government of Kerala, which could not be implemented due to non receipt of requisite information from the State Government.