

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:82

ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004

SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR REVIVAL OF PERENNIAL CROPS IN KERALA

Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any memorandum from Kerala to provide a special package for revival of perennial crops in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the crops identified for the purpose; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Sir. The Government of India has received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for the removal of root wilt affected coconut trees and enhancement of productivity at a total cost of Rs.231.64 crores.
- (b): The main objective of the project is to increase the productivity of the coconut in the severely root wilt affected areas in the state by removal of 59.14 lakhs disease advanced trees and replanting with disease tolerant seedlings.
- (c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has critically examined the project and also organized an interface meeting with the official of Coconut Development Board, State Agriculture Department, Government of Kerala and Scientists of Research Institutes such as Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kerala Agricultural University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to discuss the project proposal. Based on the discussions, Government of Kerala has been asked to resubmit the proposal after taking into consideration the possibilities of reducing the project cost by restricting the removal of disease advanced palms in the hot spot areas yielding less than 10 nuts per palm per year only, which do not respond to management practices. The revised project is awaited from the State Government