

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1323
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
CULTIVATION OF ARECANUT
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many a farmers are giving up Arecanut cultivation due to steep fall in the prices of Arecanut and various diseases which have inflicted Arecanut trees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to help Arecanut farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): No, Madam. The area under arecanut cultivation has increased significantly from 2,77,500 ha during 1998-99 to 3,85,000 ha during 2007-08.

(c)&(d): The Government has taken the following steps to help Arecanut farmers:-

- i) The import duty of Arecanut was raised from 35% to 100% to restrict the imports.
- ii) The Ministry of Finance has instructed Custom officials to prevent illegal entry of arecanut in the country.
- iii) An amount of Rs.1170.83 lakhs was sanctioned for rehabilitation/replantation of existing arecanut gardens of Kerala in an area of 9542 ha for period of three years from 2006-07 to 2008-09.
- iv) The Arecanut gardens in the State of Kanataka are covered under Integrated Pest Management (IPM) package of National Horticulture Mission.