

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:702
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
FALL IN COCONUT PRICE
Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any programme to enhance the production and productivity of coconut;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the plight of the coconut farmers on account of the steep decline in the prices of coconut; and
- (d) if so, the corrective action taken by the Government thereon?

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): Yes, Madam.

(b): The programmes implemented by the Coconut Development Board (CDB) are:-

(i) Integrated Development of Coconut

(a) Production and Distribution of quality planting material

Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farm (DSP) for coconut.

Financial assistance for establishment of Coconut Seed Gardens

Financial aid to Coconut nurseries

Production and distribution of hybrid/other recommended varieties

Regional Coconut Nursery

(b) Integrated Farming in Coconut holdings for productivity improvement

Laying out Demonstration Plots

Scheme for providing assistance for organic manure units

(c) Expansion of area under coconut

(d) Technology Demonstration-cum-Training Centre

(e) Information and Information Technology

(f) Market Promotion and Statistics

(ii) Technology Mission on Coconut

(a) Development & adoption of technologies for Management of insect pests and disease affected coconut gardens.

(b) Development & adoption of technologies processing and product diversification.

(c) Market research and promotion.

(d) Technical support, external evaluation and emergent requirements – on need basis.

(iii) Pilot Project for Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens of in three districts of Kerala, namely, Thiruvanthapuram, Kollam & Thrissur and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands – Under implementation since August, 2009

(a) Cutting and removal of old, senile, unproductive and disease advanced palms followed by replantation.

(b) Rejuvenation of existing gardens through integrated management practices.

(c) Assistance for replanting.

(iv) Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) – Under implementation since December,2009

Insurance scheme is applicable to all healthy nut bearing coconut palms, grown as mono or intercropped, on bunds farms or homestead and to all varieties of coconut having age of 4- 60 years (tall variety age range 7-60 years) excluding unhealthy and senile palms to be insured through Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd (AIC). Insured sum will vary from Rs.600 per palm (for 4th - 15th year age group) to Rs.1150 per palm (for 16th to 60th year age group). 50% of premium subsidy amount shall be borne by CDB (Central Government), 25% by participating state and 25% by the beneficiary.

(c): Fluctuation in the price of coconut oil has been observed recently.

(d): In order to protect the interest of coconut growers, Minimum Support Price (MSP) of de- husked coconut and Copra has been enhanced, as detailed at Annexure.

In addition to the MSP, procurement of Copra has also been taken up through NAFED in major coconut growing states.