

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1398
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
NORMS FOR PROCUREMENT OF COCONUT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) fixes any norms in regard to moisture content for procurement of copra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the NAFED had stopped the procurement of copra from the farmers due to high moisture content found in copra;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to address the problem of copra growers in this regard and to help the farmers hit by the Asian Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and import of palm oil;and
- (f) the steps taken to control the menace of mite pest of coconut and to remove senile palms causing low productivity?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Government of India fixes the norms of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) for procurement of copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS). The moisture level is allowed up to 6% and 7% for milling copra and ball copra, respectively. The stocks beyond permissible moisture level of FAQ norms are not procured under PSS.

(e): Farmers holding copra stock beyond permitted level of moisture content are advised to get their stocks dried to the prescribed level for offering under PSS. Further, Coconut Development Board/NCDC are providing necessary financial assistance to the societies in augmenting/upgrading of drying facilities for copra. Coconut, copra and coconut oil have been kept in the negative list of India under ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on which no tariff concession has been granted to exporting countries. Further, import of palm oil is banned from Cochin port to protect interest of copra growers.

(f): No serious incidence has been reported on occurrence of mite in coconut growing States. However, keeping in view the incidence of various crop pests/diseases in the coconut growing States, Government of India has established Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMC) at various places to assist the State Agriculture Department and also to educate farmers on issues relating to plant protection including Integrated Pest Management on coconut and other crops. So far, these CIPMCs have conducted 3426 Farmers Field Schools and thereby trained 13903 Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) and 1,03,539 farmers in different crops, including coconut plantation to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in Agriculture. Under Pest monitoring, 33.64 lakh hectare area was covered and released 7261 million of bio-control agents on different crops and covered 31.01 lakh hectare under conservation and augmentation.

Further, an IPM package of practices on Coconut has also been developed to facilitate the farmers in adopting IPM techniques against various pests and diseases.