

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
COCONUT BOARD
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether constitution of the coconut board envisages overall development of the coconut sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Board has been able to ensure better remunerative prices to coconut growers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the work undertaken by the Board for increasing the production of coconut in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The Coconut Development Board is a statutory body established by the Ministry of Agriculture under the 'Coconut Development Board Act' 1979, enacted by the Parliament on January 12th 1981 to look after the integrated development of coconut cultivation and industry in the country. The major functions of the Board, inter-alia, include adopting various measures for development of coconut industry, providing financial, technical, marketing and other assistance to stake holders, adopting various measures to increase production of coconut and to improve its quality and yield, etc.

(c) & (d) The Board has adopted various measures to provide remunerative prices to the coconut growers. Whenever the market prices fall below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), procurement operations are undertaken by NAFED.

(e) Since its inception in 1981, the Coconut Development Board has been implementing various schemes for enhancing production and productivity of coconut, by extending financial assistance to coconut farmers who are small and marginal and providing subsidies under its various programmes. The area of coconut has grown from 1.1 million hectare in 1980-81 to 1.9 million hectare in 2008-09 and the production has also gone up from 5942 million nuts to 15730 million nuts during the same period. The productivity has also increased from 5485 nuts per hectare to 8303 nuts per hectare.