

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4407  
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011  
ARECANUT GROWERS  
Raghavendra Shri B. Y.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the arecanut growers in Karnataka are suffering from yellow leaf disease, root grub, Hidimundige etc;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of arecanut growers;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to increase the minimum support price of arecanut; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Arecanut plantations in Karnataka are affected by Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD), koleroga and root grub in Chickmagalur and Shimoga districts of Karnataka. The Government has taken following measures to safeguard the interest of arecanut growers:-

(i) Assistance is provided for rehabilitation of YLD affected arecanut gardens under rejuvenation component of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) @ Rs.15000/ ha limited to 2 ha per beneficiary. During 2011-12, provision has been made for rejuvenation of 5530 ha of YLD affected arecanut garden in the state action plan at total cost of Rs.829.50 lakh. Nutrients and plant protection inputs are also being provided through Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) component of NHM @ Rs.1000/ ha.

(ii) During 2008-09, Government of Karnataka had sanctioned Rs.494.38 lakh for a period of 4 years to establish Arecanut Research Station at Sringeri, Chickmagalur district exclusively for conducting research on Yellow Leaf Disease.

(iii) During 2007-08, to combat fruit-rot disease (Koleroga), a special package with maximum assistance @ Rs.1500/ ha was provided to the farmers as plant protection measure.

(iv) During 2008-09, Rs.1.00 crore was provided to Arecanut Research and Development Foundation, Mangalore to conduct research on arecanut use diversification.

(v) Government of India has raised the import duty of arecanut from 35% to 100% to restrict the imports of arecanut in the country.

(c) & (d): Arecanut is not covered under minimum support price policy of the Government. However, to safeguard the interest of arecanut growers in Karnataka, the Government had introduced Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for 8000 MT of white and 4000 MT of red variety of arecanut at the Market Intervention Price (MIP) of Rs.75,000/- and Rs.97,900/- per MT respectively, from 6th April, 2011 to 31st May, 2011. Similar MI Scheme was also introduced during 2009-10.