

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1583
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
WELFARE SCHEME FOR COCONUT FARMERS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the coconut farmers in Kerala are facing lots of problems due to high price of coconut in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is acute shortage of coconut plucking labourers and the labour cost in this regard is high;
- (d) whether the Government has given subsidy to the coconut farmers for purchase of coconut plucking machine or announced any welfare scheme for the coconut plucking labourers and farmers; and
- (e) 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): The Government is aware of increased wholesale price of coconut. The wholesale price of coconut ranges from Rs.8000/- to Rs.11000/- per thousand nuts. An increase of farmgate price is beneficial to coconut farmers for enhancing their rate of return.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d) & (e): There is no provision of Government subsidy for purchase of coconut plucking machines. The Government is implementing the `Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme` for coconut plucking labourers and farmers through Coconut Development Board (CDB) in selected districts of major coconut growing States viz. Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

Coconut Tree Climbers (CTC) in the age group of 18-70 years are eligible for insurance under this scheme. Out of the annual premium of Rs.171/- (inclusive of service tax) 75% will be borne by the Board and balance 25% by the beneficiary. The maximum benefit is Rs.1,16,750/- per CTC against accidental death, permanent total disability, hospital expenses, etc.