

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1619
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012
ARECANUT FARMERS
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Raghavendra Shri B. Y.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether imported arecanut is causing threats to domestic arecanut farmers as the prices of their produce have gone down;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that arecanut farmers are in distress and unable to repay the bank loan raised for growing arecanut;
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government is taking any steps to rescue the arecanut growers by introducing any package for them; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (f): The average price of arecanut during current year has increased to Rs. 13,046/quintal as against Rs.12,553/quintal in 2011-12.

The steps taken by the Government to address the problems of the arecanut growers are as under:-

- (i) Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has formulated a scheme for providing financial relief to the farmers in Karnataka for implementation through NABARD.
- (ii) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two centrally sponsored schemes namely Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH) & National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to address all the issues related to development of horticulture in the country including rejuvenation of arecanut. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for adoption of integrated nutrient & pest management and rejuvenation of arecanut plantations. Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM), an amount of Rs. 705.08 lakh was provided for rejuvenation including Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) affected gardens of arecanut.
- (iii) Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod is undertaking various research and extension activities to promote alternative uses of arecanut and control of Yellow Leaf Disease of arecanut.