

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:211  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013  
RELIEF TO COCONUT FARMERS  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) the major challenges faced by the coconut farmers in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the mechanism put in place by the Coconut Development Board (CDB) to mitigate the hardships faced by the coconut farmers;
- (c) whether various schemes mooted by the CDB have yielded the desired results;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the conditions of coconut farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 DUE FOR REPLY ON 12TH MARCH, 2013.

(a) The major challenges faced by coconut farmers during the last three years include low price realization, lack of availability of good quality seedlings, increased incidence of pests and diseases leading to lower productivity and shortage of palm tree climbers.

(b) In addition to various schemes aimed at improving the economic viability of coconut farming such as production and distribution of quality planting material, technology demonstrations, market promotion, replanting and rejuvenation of coconut gardens, etc., Coconut Development Board (CDB) is encouraging formation of coconut farmers producers organizations to facilitate aggregation of their produce and link them to the markets, organizing value addition at farm level and establishing units for production and marketing of value added products.

(c) & (d) Some of the major results of the interventions are increase in production and productivity of coconut from 15,730 million nuts (in 2008-09) to 16,943 million nuts (in 2010-11) and 7,747 nuts/ha (2008-09) to 8,965 nuts/ha (2010-11) respectively; distribution of eleven lakh seedlings through Demonstration cum Seed Production (DSP) farms during 2012-13; setting up two hundred and fifteen coconut based industrial units, establishment of 2,122 Coconut Producers Society (CPS) and 73 Coconut Producers Federations (CPF) in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh established; and training of 10,733 persons under 'Friends of Coconut Tree' scheme.

(e) Other measures taken by the Government to improve the conditions of coconut farmers include increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) from Rs. 3,660 per quintal in 2008-09 to Rs. 5,250 per quintal in 2013 for milling copra and from Rs. 3,910 per quintal in 2008-09 to Rs. 5,500 per quintal in 2013 for ball copra, insuring palms against natural perils and introducing insurance for palm tree climbers. During 2011-12, a total of 4.88 lakh palm trees and 5,601 climbers were insured.