

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4199
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
GORAKH SINGH COMMITTEE
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Gorakh Singh Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and the implementation status thereof as on date;
- (c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted to the Government; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to assist the Arecanut growers from Karnataka?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Namo Narain Meena)

a) to (d) : The Gorakh Singh Committee, in its report submitted to the Government, inter alia, recommended rehabilitation of Yellow Leaf Disease(YLD) affected Arecanut gardens under rejuvenation component and encouraging inter crops.

The Government has taken following steps to address the problems faced by arecanut growers:-

i) Under National Horticulture Mission, an amount of Rs. 705.08 lakh was provided for rejuvenation including YLD affected gardens of arecanut. Under this Mission, assistance is also provided for Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management to improve production and productivity of horticultural crops including arecanut.

ii) The Government of India has also in January, 2012 approved a Scheme for improving productivity and farm income of Arecanut based farming system in Karnataka which, inter alia, envisages re-scheduling of the outstanding loans, financing of additional fresh loans, financing for production credit for good yielding gardens, interest incentive of 1.5% for prompt and regular repayment of loans refinanced and support for technology transfer to improve crop productivity and farm income.

iii) Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod is undertaking various research and extension activities to promote alternative uses of arecanut and for effective control of YLD of arecanut.

iv) During the year 2011-12, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was implemented for procurement of 8000 MTs White and 4000 MTs Red variety of arecanut from 6.4.2011 to 31.5.2011 with a Market Intervention Price of Rs. 75,900/- per MT for White and Rs. 97,900/- per MT for Red variety of arecanut in Karnataka.