

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6555
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
ARECANUT GROWERS
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that importing of arecanut without any duty/tax benefits the gutka manufacturers only;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is trying to ban gutka in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, whether it is a fact that the livelihood of more than 7 lakh growers of arecanut has been adversely affected;
- (e) the details of the action taken by the Government on the report of Dr. Gorakh Singh; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to provide relief to arecanut growers?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Import of arecanut is being regulated through the Minimum Import Price prescribed from time to time.

(c): The Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulation, 2011 dated 1st August 2011, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, lays down that food product should not contain any substance which is injurious to health and that tobacco or nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.

Currently, 29 States/UTs have issued orders for implementation of the Food Safety Regulations banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka and Pan Masala containing tobacco or nicotine.

(d) to (f): Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has formulated a scheme for providing financial relief to the areca nut farmers in Karnataka for implementation through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD).

Under the National Horticulture Mission, an amount of Rs.705.08 lakh was provided for rejuvenation of unproductive orchards including Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) affected gardens of areca nut, Under this Mission, assistance is also provided for Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management to improve production and productivity of horticulture crops including areca nut.

During 2011-12, 8000 MTs of white and 4000 MTs of red variety of areca nut were procured by the Government under the Market Intervention Scheme in Karnataka at Rs.75,900/- per MT for white and Rs.97,900/- per MT for red variety.