

Title: Regarding situation arising out of serious disease of mite endangering the coconut cultivation in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.

14.08 hrs

Serious disease of mite endangering coconut cultivation in the Country

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Calling Attention by Shri P.C. Thomas will be taken up.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Where is the Minister? He is not here.

MR. SPEAKER: He is coming.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): You please take a note of it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that he is coming.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an occasion for a reprimand from the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that he is coming. In the meantime, Shri Thomas, you can move it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, we have no quarrel with the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not quarrel with the Minister.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : No Sir. He is a very honest person. The only thing that we want is that for the delay which has unknowingly caused, I think he will be benevolent to the coconut farmers in this regard.

I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of serious disease of mite endangering coconut cultivation in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, the incidence of Coconut Mite was first reported in India from Ernakulam district of Kerala in 1998. It is reported to be spreading to other neighbouring States, viz., Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The mite infestation causes production of extremely small sized nuts with surface warting and longitudinal fissures with immature fall. The infestation in Kerala has now spread to seven districts, viz., Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Kottayam, Palakkad, Trichur and Trivandrum.

">The infestation on severe scale was similarly reported from some parts of Tamil Nadu, especially Erode, Pollachi, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Virudhnagar. In Tamil Nadu, about 50 lakh coconut palms are reported to have been affected by this pest. Sporadic incidences of this pest are also reported from Karnataka and Pondicherry.

">The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargode have recommended root feeding of 10 ml. Monocrotophos and 10 ml. water at monthly intervals as a satisfactory control measure. Similarly, Kerala Agriculture University (KAU) has recommended spraying of Dicofol 6 ml./litre of water or two per cent neem oil plus two per cent garlic extract at monthly intervals. Government of Kerala are taking steps to adopt remedial/control measures through spraying as recommended by Kerala Agriculture University.

">In view of the high cost of pesticides and difficulties in administering the pesticides for control of the pest, the scientists are now of the opinion that development of effective bio-control measures with natural enemies would offer an effective, cheap, eco-friendly and long lasting solution to the problem. The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has, therefore, approved a research project in this direction at a cost of Rs.3 lakh to develop effective bio-control measures.

">The Coconut Development Board has brought out booklets/brochures on mite and are extending assistance for training programmes. The awareness creation campaigns are continuing both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu where the pest incidence is reported to be very high.

">On a request received in October 1998 from Government of Kerala for an assistance of Rs.525 lakh for combating mite infestation in Coconut, the Coconut Development Board released an additional Rs.96 lakh during 1998-99 to Government of Kerala for this purpose which have been revalidated recently for utilisation during the year 1999-2000. Further, under the project 'Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement'", which include a component on plant protection, an outlay of Rs.713.03 lakh has been sanctioned for Kerala for the year 1999-2000.

">In this regard, a meeting was also taken by the Union Secretary of Agriculture & Cooperation with the scientists of CPCRI, KAU, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and officers of the CDB, Director of Agriculture/Horticulture of Government of Kerala and

Tamil Nadu on 2nd September, 1999 at Kochi to discuss the problem of coconut mite in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

">A Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Horticulture Commissioner with the representatives of States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as from the three Agricultural Universities, CPCRI, Kasargode, Project Directorate of Biological Control and All India Coordinated Project on "Mite" (ICAR) has been formed to review and coordinate the efforts in developing suitable control measures and management of the problem.

">Government of Kerala have requested for a financial assistance of Rs.100 crore in this regard. The matter is being examined.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem is so serious that India will be put to a great loss if this issue is not properly tackled at this stage. The estimated production of coconut is 130 billion nuts per year in 1.89 million hectares. This is 24.5 per cent of the world's production. The area of cultivation is about 15.5 per cent of the total area of cultivation in the world.

">1416 hours (Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

">India is heading on to be the first in the production and productivity of coconut. At this stage, this disease is going to be devastating. It is going to completely uproot this cultivation. It is of such a magnitude that it has to be very seriously dealt with. This has to be treated as a national calamity and action has to be taken by the Government in this respect.

">Sir, about 90 per cent of coconut plantation in Kerala is being affected. The statistics of the Department of Agriculture would show that 59 billion nuts are being produced in Kerala and the area of cultivation is 1.02 million hectares. About 10 million people in Kerala alone are engaged in coconut cultivation as labourers, farmers and other jobs connected thereto. About a sum of Rs.7,000 crore is being given annually to the GDP and also about Rs.366 crore by way of export of coir and other products of coconut.

">Sir, this is not a problem of Kerala alone. About 70 per cent of the cultivation in Tamil Nadu is also going to be affected. Pollachi is the grey area and it has been affected to a very great extent. The statistics would show that 3,716 million nuts are being grown in 3,19,800 hectares of land in Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka--Shri Bangarappa is also going to say about this--about 50 per cent of the cultivation in Karnataka is estimated to be affected and 1,493 million nuts are being produced in Karnataka in 2,86,900 hectares of land. In Andhra Pradesh, 780 million nuts are being produced in 94,900 hectares of land.

">I have the statistics of all the other States, West Bengal, Orissa, Goa, Tripura, Maharashtra, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. In Lakshadweep, I shall specifically say that about 28 million nuts are being produced in about 2,800 hectares. This is a very very serious problem of high dimension. The Government of Kerala alone will not be able to tackle this problem. The Government of Kerala has not succeeded in tackling this problems. I do not think, the Government of other States alone can do something in this regard. So, the Government of India has to come forward.

">Coconut had been declared as an oilseed by the V.P.Singh Government. But, along with that the benefits of oilseeds were taken away. So, it is not treated as an oilseed now. It is being treated as a horticultural product. Therefore, it does not have the cover of the group insurance. The insurance cover, which the Government of India is providing through GIC or other agencies, is not there now. We have been very hastily passing the other concerned Bills. With regard to insurance, we are inviting foreign investment. The poor farmers cultivating coconuts in this country are not covered by insurance and no subsidy is also given by the Government of India.

">Therefore, I want that some immediate action in this respect is taken to see how the farmers could be helped at this stage by providing proper insurance cover for each coconut tree which they are planting. This matter should receive very serious consideration of the Government. Then, assistance has to be given to the coconut farmers of all the concerned States by the Government of India. The hon. Minister has been good enough to speak out in the statement with regard to Rs.96 lakh which has been spent or given by the Coconut Development Board, which is a pittance as far as the magnitude of the problem is concerned. I am sure the Government of Kerala which has taken a step by giving Rs.3.... (Interruptions) The statement has said about Rs.96 lakh. That is there. That is a very, very small amount in comparison to the magnitude of the situation and the great amount of contribution the coconut farmers are making to the nation. Therefore, I would submit that the very important aspect is that the Government of India should give good assistance to the farmers. The Government of Kerala is doing one thing now. They are giving Rs.3 per affected tree which is a very, very small amount. At least Rs.15 per tree is estimated to be the cost of giving treatment which has been mentioned in the statement. In the statement, it is said that some kind of medicines are applied. In Tamil Nadu, for example, one type of chemical is applied. In Kerala, as per the suggestion given by the Agricultural University, they are also giving one particular type of medicine. It is called Dycophil. They are giving that. That alone is not a solution to this problem.

">I may also add at this stage that a proper remedy has not been found as yet. Therefore, it may be proper that the Minister himself visits the area concerned, especially, Kerala. Kerala has the largest cultivation. In Kerala 59 billion nuts are being produced. So, the Minister himself must visit not only Kerala but also the other affected areas along with the high-ranking scientists of India who will be able to find out a solution to this problem which, the scientists say now, is not by giving any type of manure or medicine or insecticide but it may be by way of some organic, natural anti-insects which have to be produced.

">This disease was first detected in Africa and Latin America where tea and coffee plantations were being affected. There, they have been successful in finding out some kind of anti-insects or organic insects, natural insects which are now fighting against them, which were able to successfully fight against the disease and they have overcome the problem. So, it may be necessary even to take the advice of scientists abroad also and to find out a proper solution to this problem immediately.

">So, I would suggest also that apart from the immediate need for investigation by scientists, there may also be a need to help the farmers who have been already affected. Otherwise, they will stop the cultivation and they will not be able to sustain at all. So, I would suggest that immediately some amount per coconut, per tree, has to be given; and that amount should be calculated. The Government of Kerala has been pleased to ask for Rs.100 crore which, I think, may be a very meagre amount because the magnitude of the situation is higher than that. I would submit that at least Rs.50 per tree may be calculated so that some kind of assistance in this

regard to the cultivators wherever they are, whether they are in Kerala, or in Tamil Nadu or in all the other States concerned, must be given and they must be allowed to sustain.

">There is also a fear that this has come out of some underhand dealing by some agencies also. There is a fear like that. For example, some multinationals who are interested in bringing out their stuff like their soft drinks are doubted, suspected that they have also worked behind this by bringing the insects and formulating them here, and having done something to see that their business interests are safeguarded.

">So that also may be inspected whether there is an underhand dealing by any of the multinational companies or others involved who want to give a thrust to their product at the cost of the coconut cultivators.

">Some hon. Member was saying here that coconut juice is very sweet which we are not making use of. (Interruptions). We are using Pepsi whereas in China, I understand from the information which I have received, the coconut milk - which we get in plenty - is being packed and used more. That is a very common drink which is used by the public there, not any other artificial drink which we find here. The sweet water which comes out of our coconut is also something which has to be taken out and which has to be publicised and which has to be given a thrust industrially so that India can gain by that.

">I am sorry that the Coconut Development Board which is a Board under the Government of India is not having any statutory power. Therefore, if we have to do something through the Coconut Development Board, then that Board also should be empowered and something should be done in this regard.

">The Government of Kerala has suggested Dycophil. Dycophil is a chemical, but DDT is the major content. DDT is something which is recommended to be completely discarded. So, I would suggest that that also has to be looked into. The Dycophil medicine is supplied by Bayer and Company. I do not know whether this multinational company has come as a saviour. This also needs to be looked into.

">Monocrotophos is being injected to the roots of coconut, especially in Tamil Nadu. This is also highly poisonous. Its consequences also have to be studied, otherwise it may affect not only coconut but other cultivators in India. But this is a matter to be taken very seriously in this regard.

">Coconut farmers were also in so much of difficulty because they were not getting proper price. The price of coconut which was about Rs. 6/- had come down to Rs. 2/- or Rs. 3/-. They were in a difficult situation. So, the farmers must be helped by way of support for getting the proper price also.

">The Ministry of Agriculture is concerned with declaring the minimum support price. (Interruptions).

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you have to ask a clarificatory question.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Since Shri Nitish Kumar has taken over the charge, I would suggest that, at least this time, the minimum support price which is going to be declared will be based on real cost of production and the cost of living of the farmers.

">I was astonished to see an answer which I was given in Parliament a few years back mentioning that the cost of production of coconut cannot be correctly measured. Then, what is the use of minimum support price? So, the minimum support price which is being declared here is also not up to the standard and which has absolutely no relation to the real difficult situation which the farmer is facing and that is the cost of production. So, these things are to be taken into consideration. The minimum support price has to be declared reasonably within a reasonable time and the farmer has to be assured that he gets the minimum support price.

">Sir, I will be concluding as my other colleagues are also going to speak.

">The only thing which I would pointedly ask is, what is the Central assistance which the Government of India can give to the farmers of India cultivating coconut, especially in Kerala where the maximum production is there?

">My second pointed question is...(Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Then I shall club it with the first question itself.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Club it or in whatever form you may ask, but you can ask only one question.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, my question prior to the first question IS...(Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude, Shri Thomas. There are three or four other Members also to ask their questions.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am finishing, Sir.

">So, Sir, my question is regarding (a) Central assistance; (b) Central team which is going to be sent, of course, led by the Minister; and (c) insurance cover or actual safeguards for the farmers so that they can continue with the cultivation of coconut. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, the Government has failed to fully realise the devastating gravity of the coconut mite problem. Consequently, there is, I am constrained to say, a criminal neglect of the entire problem on the hands of the Government. The entire Government machinery seems to be moving at a leisurely snail's pace. It is important that the Government gives up this procrastination, shake up and rise to the gravity of the situation. We have been told that

not only Kerala but also Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pondicherry have been affected.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank God, not Lakshadweep.

">SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : In the case of Kerala, look at the gravity of the situation that about five crore palms of about ten lakh farmers in Kerala have already been affected. Then, in the statement, we are told that the disease starting from Ernakulam has spread to seven districts. No, almost all the districts, particularly eleven districts, are very badly affected and newer and newer areas are being threatened. Therefore, the Government should give up its laxity in this particular problem.

">The pitiable position of the farmers that are engaged in coconut cultivation, must be realised. They are small farmers and 95 per cent of them in Kerala have holdings less than one hectare in extent. I emphasise that immediate and massive intervention is necessary. There is already the root of the wilt disease and now we have this coconut mite. Combined, they threaten total extermination of coconut and irreparable damage to the agricultural economy.

">The first instance of mites in coconuts was reported in 1998. If I refer to the Government of Kerala, it sought an assistance of Rs.525 lakh at that particular time.

">As against the assistance of Rs. 525 lakh sought, a meagre sum of Rs. 96 lakh was offered. Now, with the passage of time and as a result of this neglect, I would say and as a result of this failure to intervene imminently and massively, the devastating disease has spread. The Government of Kerala has now asked for at least Rs. 100 crore as only the Central share. The programme that they have is for Rs. 195 crore, which again, I am afraid, will not be sufficient. The Government of Kerala and the Local Bodies will raise Rs. 95 crore and the Central assistance is to be Rs. 100 crore.

Now, as I say, as against this, a pittance is being offered. Let the Government realise that the average cost of chemicals, cleaning and application charges come to about Rs. 13 per tree. If five crore palms are affected in Kerala and at least three rounds of spraying is needed for the purpose, then a simple calculation will tell you that the minimum amount that is needed is Rs. 195 crore. A sum of Rs. 95 crore will be met by the State Government and the Local Bodies. The Government of Kerala has, therefore, made a very reasonable and minimum demand for Rs. 100 crore as Central assistance. This question of dealing with the coconut mite brooks no delay. The delay will be costly. As I have pointed out, this disease has been spreading while the Government has been sleeping. I say that the Central Government is moving at a snail's pace. We are told that even this demand of Rs. 100 crore is being examined.

मुझे उर्दू का एक शेर याद आता है --

'हमने माना के तगाफ़ूल न करोगे लेकिन,

झाक हो जाएंगे हम तुमको खबर होने तक।'

This is the situation.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): You should translate it into English.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It means that we may be given to understand that you may not procrastinate; you may not delay. But by the time you rise and take action, we may be mixed with dust. That is the total extermination of the coconut. The agricultural economy is under threat.

I must, therefore, emphasise the need of expeditious decisions and they have to be taken as the coconut mite is on the spread. This pittance will not do. This pittance is not going to solve the problem and we will have to face very bad results of this pittance that is being offered.

Therefore, I must emphasise that in the case of every State, full assistance must be offered. The entire situation should be treated as a great national calamity.

I must say of the Coconut Board. We have also to come to the help of the farmers. They are in a pitiable condition and assistance will also have to be given, as has already been pointed out, to these farmers. I would like to know about some further things. The Coconut Board has asked for a research.

I told you about the leisurely manner in which we are proceeding and a sum of Rs. 3 lakh has been set aside for this research work, to meet the challenge put by this particular disease. Sir, let us know : When was the research project sanctioned? What is its present position? How long is it expected to take?

Sir, we are also told in your statement that when the Kerala Government approached you in the year 1998 for an assistance of Rs. 525 lakh, a pittance of Rs. 96 lakh was offered and released. Let us know when exactly was this amount of Rs. 96 lakh released. Let us also know whether this amount was fully utilised and if so, in what period of time. We are, in your statement, being told that this amount has been revalidated recently for utilisation during the year 1999-2000. What is the meaning of this? My English is rather poor. Therefore, I have to understand whether it means that a fresh amount of Rs. 525 lakh has been sanctioned and released for the year 1999-2000 or it means that the earlier amount though released was not utilised during that period and simply sanction is being given to utilise the earlier amount in the later years also.

Sir, I shall be glad if the pointed replies are given and we are assured, every State is assured of full assistance to meet this devastating pest that we are facing as far as the coconuts are concerned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, have you asked the question?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I thank you. I shall restart for your benefit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am asking about clarificatory question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : My pointed questions are there and I hope that the Government will shake up its lethargy, rise to the occasion and move with all the speed and give full assistance to every State and every farmer that has been affected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I have to catch flight.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I share the views expressed by my hon. colleagues. The coconut farmers in Kerala are bleeding and the State Government and the Central Government are fiddling. As rightly pointed out by our hon. colleagues, the Governments - both the Central and the State- are sleeping. They are not taking seriously the issues of the coconut farmers in our State.

">Sir, in your statement, you have mentioned about the devastating incidence of coconut mite in a large area. Now, it has affected almost all the districts of Kerala. Now, it is slowly spreading to the other States also. It is spreading slowly to your State also, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, and also Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and other parts of the country. The poor coconut farmers are already facing a lot of problems. They are not getting remunerative prices and their products are not sold properly. At the same time, the cost of cultivation is going up. Alongwith that, now the incidence of coconut mite has created a very serious situation in our State.

">The entire economy of Kerala is depending on the coconut farming.

">Unfortunately, the Central Government and the State Government are taking this issue very casually. I do not want to go into the details of the coconut production in our country. Kerala is one of the States which has contributed a lot in this sector. The ten crore farmers who are engaged in this sector are either marginal or poor farmers. Even though the Government has set up the Coconut Development Board, it is unfortunate to note that the farmers living in the villages are not getting any benefit from this Board. The non-functioning of the Coconut Board has created this situation in our State. They are not looking after the farmers; they are not giving any kind of incentives to these farmers.

">The hon. Minister has mentioned about CSIR, and CPCRI, which was started in 1989. But till now, nothing has happened. The callous manner in which the Central Government has taken note of this is made clear when you find that three lakh rupees were earmarked for research and development purpose. Can we accept this? It was started in 1989, but till now, no attention has been paid to this problem. Thousands of coconut trees were affected by this disease, and thousands of coconut farmers are suffering because of it. With three lakh rupees which were earmarked for research and development, how can any institution carry out any sort of research and development work? Look at other countries and see how they have tackled this problem. When Latin America and Brazil faced this problem, their scientists came forward and tackled this problem effectively. Is there any dearth of scientists or institutions in our country? What are the CPCRI and CSIR doing? These institutions are accountable to this Parliament. They are sleeping and they are not taking it very seriously. How much money are we spending on these institutions? As Shri Banatwalla rightly pointed out earlier, the coconut farmers are facing this mite problem along with other problems. So, it is the duty of the CSIR as well as the CPCRI to take care of this issue seriously and find out some kind of a remedy for it.

">The Kerala Agricultural University has also suggested that spraying is a very dangerous thing. Shri Thomas also pointed out that it is dangerous. My point is that the Central Government and the State Government have not taken this issue very seriously. The Central Government has not given proper guidance to our research and development institutions to tackle this issue. It is very important to note that this disease is spreading to other States also. So, what is the reason behind this callous attitude?

">Sir, I want to mention emphatically that it is not mere callousness; there is a lobby working behind this. The oil lobby is very strong in our country, and they are working against the interest of the coconut cultivators in our country. It is not mere callousness or negligence. They are intentionally doing this to help the oil lobby in our country, who are very powerful. Due to this oil lobby, we have suffered all these things. I also want to say that they are against the coconut farmers and coconut seed. They propagate that if we use coconut, then the cholesterol level will go up. But research and development says that it is absurd to say so. So, a particular lobby is influencing the people who are taking the decisions. So, my request to the hon. Minister, who is a young fellow, and we worked together for so many years in Parliament, is that he has to overcome this problem. He has to tighten or plug the loopholes.

">He has to come forward and help the poor farmers of the State.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now you ask the clarification.

">SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I would like to mention that our State Government is also doing the same thing. When this disease cropped up, the State Government has not done anything. They are only sending representations to the Centre. Our Chief Minister has the habit of sending love letters to the Central Government. The Chief Minister never come to the Centre and ask for any assistance for our State. He would always write love letters to the Central Government and make statements ... (Interruptions) Anyway, I do not want to politicise the issue.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, you are such a senior Member and you should know that you can ask only one question.

">SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Yes Sir, I know I am a senior Member but I wanted to mention that when such an issue cropped up in the State of Kerala and it was having a devastating effect on our economy, the State Government did not do anything. They even did not represent the case properly to the Central Government.

">Sir, my request to the hon. Minister for Agriculture is that proper allocation should be made for the State of Kerala. The hon. Minister has given some assistance, which has been mentioned by him in his statement, but that is as a matter of routine allocation for purposes of coconut replantation and other things. But we want certain Central assistance to help the poor farmers

">in our State. That is the most important thing. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Agriculture is contemplating to provide proper assistance to the farmers who are suffering owing to the disease of the coconut trees.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have just only clarification.

">SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, secondly, my request is that I am not saying that the hon. Minister should visit the State of Kerala, of course, he is always welcome to the State but alongwith him the senior officers should also come to our State and proper directions should be issued to the institutions which are responsible for research and development work.

">Sir, I think, these issues would have to be taken very very seriously and proper assistance should be given by the Central Government to the State and should also see to it that the assistance reaches the poor farmers of the State.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into the details of the subject. I fully agree with the views which have been expressed by my colleagues here.

">Sir, as you know, coconut cultivation has a very major role to play in the economy of Kerala. Lakhs of people, many with small holdings, depend on coconut cultivation for their living. A new mite disease called the mandari has created a havoc in the State by destroying the coconut crop on a large scale in many of the districts in the State of Kerala. This is a mysterious disease and nobody has been able to find a correct remedy to this. The Agriculture Minister of the State has attributed the cause of the disease as the handiwork of the Mumbai oil lobby. The hon. Minister for Agriculture of the Central Government has stated that this disease was noticed only ten months back but the Kerala Agricultural University has said that this disease was detected in September, 1997. This disease has added to the problems of the farmers of Kerala whose economy has already been shattered by the falling prices of rubber and other cash crops.

">Sir, one thing is clear and that is, this disease is spreading very fast and farmers are in serious difficulty. I have four suggestions to make in this regard. First, the Centre should immediately send a team of experts to Kerala to study the situation and suggest immediate remedial measures. Second, the State alone is unable to handle the situation for want of funds and so, the Centre should extend necessary financial support to the State of Kerala for taking effective steps to improve the situation.

">Hon. Agriculture Minister of Kerala requested the Central Government for Rs.100 crore in this regard. We expect the hon. Union Minister of Agriculture to sanction this amount and make an announcement to this effect during his reply.

">My third point is, farmers'" crops are lost and they are in serious financial problem. Centre should evolve some scheme, in consultation with the State, to give financial support to the affected farmers. Fourthly, a detailed research should be conducted to save Kerala'"s coconut cultivation from total destruction. The root wilt disease has already done severe damage to the coconut cultivation in the State. This disease is also growing unchecked. Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene immediately in this serious matter. I also request the Minister to convene a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of all the southern States to discuss this problem.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the magnitude of this problem has already been effectively highlighted by my esteemed colleagues here. As you know, coconut is the backbone of the agricultural economy of Kerala. The name of the State Kerala itself is derived from the word keran which means coconut tree. No other tree in any other part of the world is so intimately interwoven with the lives and livelihood of the people as this tree in Kerala is. Each and every part of this tree is useful right from the root to its fruit. My humble request is that the Central Government should take this problem, which affects the entire economy of Kerala, seriously.

">Sir, as you know already, this tree is affected by root wilt disease. This root wilt disease was first reported in 1882 i.e., some hundred years back. Till this day no proper remedy has been found. Now this pest called mite has affected almost eleven districts of Kerala, not seven as mentioned by some hon. Members. Coconut trees in eleven districts of Kerala are affected. It is spreading to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and also Andhra Pradesh. So, as my friend Shri Thomas has already stated, this should be treated as a national calamity. This pest affects the nuts and the nuts become small and wrinkled. As a result of this it is very difficult to de-husk them. Since it is difficult to de-husk the nuts, they are rejected in the market. If this disease continues like this, entire tree population in Kerala and all the farmers there will be affected. Ninety-five per cent of them are small farmers.

">I understand that the Minister of Agriculture is coming to Kerala next month for a programme. He can very well take some scientists with him. Government of Kerala is doing its best in this regard. Several meetings were conducted, several conferences were held and some spraying of chemicals was done as suggested by scientists. Our colleague Shri Chennithala used this occasion for scoring political points. Government of Kerala, within its

">limited means, is doing everything possible. Perhaps our friend was thinking that every Government is like that of Orissa or every Chief Minister is like the Chief Minister of Orissa. It is not so. The only thing that Government of Kerala. ...(Interruptions)

">SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): Sir, how can he bring the Chief Minister of Orissa into this? This is not correct.

">SHRI SURESH KURUP : I was only saying that this occasion should not be used to score political points.

">15.00 hrs.

">This occasion should not have been used for scoring political points. The only request that the Government of Kerala has made is that the Centre should allow sufficient funds. Government has requested for Rs.100 crore. My humble request is at least that amount should be sanctioned and a team of scientists should be sent to Kerala to evaluate whether the measures taken are proper. So, my pointed question is whether the Government intend to sanction this amount of Rs.100 crore and also whether the Government will send a team of scientists to the State and to all the affected States to evaluate the relief measures taken.

">SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Andhra Pradesh is also involved.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: My difficulty is that this rule does not permit me to give you any chance to speak.

">SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : In Andhra Pradesh, particularly Konaseema is an area where there is lot of coconut. There is a Coconut Research Centre.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Even if I have to give you permission, I will be violating the rules here. Therefore, you can put just one question. Not more than that. But this will not be a precedent. I permit you as a special case considering the seriousness of the problem.

">... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. It will not go on record.

">(Interruptions) *

">SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): On behalf of Lakshadweep also, I demand that the hon. Minister should reply.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can interrupt on behalf of Lakshadweep!

">SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : In Andhra Pradesh, Konaseema area is only having a coconut garden. There is no other crop. Konaseema has a Coconut Research Centre at Ambajipeta. During the 1996 debacle of the cyclone, two-thirds of the coconut trees have fallen down. So, only one-third of the trees remain which are also attacked by pests now. Unless urgent measures are taken to eliminate that disease, the people will be put to irreparable loss. Konaseema is in the Constituency of the Hon. Speaker and I belong to that Constituency. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take into account the needs of the medicines and other things of Konaseema also. Thank you very much.

">SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): The gravity of the problem is understood by the hon. Minister and by the House also. I am just asking the hon. Minister whether he will consider again as. It is mentioned here that coconut is declared as an oilseed long back when the National Front Government was in power. If it is declared as an oilseed, naturally the assistance which is due to oilseeds should have been given. Even at this late stage, when coconut farmers and coconut are facing a serious problem like this, will the Government and the hon. Minister consider to declare coconut as an oilseed and sanction assistance accordingly? An assistance of Rs.100 crore which is needed to solve this problem should be made. I would like to know when the Government plans to sanction this Rs.100 crore of Central assistance. The hon. Minister may respond to these two points.

*Not Recorded.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (खजुराहो) : बिहार में भी यह बीमारी है क्या?

श्री नीतीश कुमार : बिहार में यह बीमारी अभी तक नहीं पहुंची है।

... (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : महाराष्ट्र में कहां कोकोनट है? वहां यह बीमारी अभी तक नहीं पहुंची है।

... (व्यवधान)

श्री रामदास आठवले (पंढरपुर) : महाराष्ट्र के कोकण एरिया में यह बीमारी काफी है। वहां नारियल के फार्मर्स काफी है।

... (व्यवधान)

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श्री नीतीश कुमार : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्यों ने इस गम्भीर बीमारी की तरफ जो ध्यान आकृष्ट किया है, उसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ।

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">उनकी जो चिन्ता है, वह स्वाभाविक है। इस बीमारी से बड़ा भारी नुकसान हो रहा है, इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है।

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">यह एक तरह का एयर-बोर्न डिजीज है, जो १९६० के दशक में दूसरे मुल्कों में, खासकर मैक्सिको के इलाके में पहली बार प्रकट हुआ था। लेकिन यह किस प्रकार से आया या वहां भी किस प्रकार से आया था, इसके बारे में कोई निश्चित जानकारी नहीं है। यहां भी किस प्रकार से आया, इसके बारे में भी कोई जानकारी नहीं है। इसके बारे में कृषि वैज्ञानिक अभी-भी किसी नतीजे पर नहीं पहुंचे हैं। आज उन लोगों ने मुझे बताया और उसके हिसाब से यह एयरबोर्न डिजीज है और यह बहुत तेजी से

फैलता है। यह बात सही है कि यह केरल तक ही सीमित नहीं है और जैसा मैंने उत्तर में कहा, यह बीमारी तमिलनाडु में भी पहुंच गई। इसके अलावा अन्य राज्यों में, जिस प्रकार आन्ध्र प्रदेश के बारे में बताया गया है, वहां पहुंचा है। इसके निपटने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं, इसका निष्कर्ष मैंने अपने मूल उत्तर में ही किया है। दुनिया के दूसरे मुल्कों में जब यह पहले रोग आया था, वहां जिस प्रकार से कैमिकल्स का प्रयोग करके निपटने की कोशिश हुई थी, उसके बारे में यहां जो जानकारी उपलब्ध है, उसके आधार पर ही यहां वैज्ञानिकों ने सुझाव दिया गया है और दो कैमिकल्स का उल्लेख किया है। इन कैमिकल्स के प्रयोग करने के दो ही रास्ते हैं - पहला, पानी के साथ मिलाकर पेड़ के रूट्स में सुई से डाला जाए और दूसरा, पेड़ के ऊपर उसको स्प्रे किया जाए। कैमिकल्स को रूट्स में डालने का खतरा है, क्योंकि रूट से ही पानी कोकोनट में जाता है और उस पर असर हो सकता है। कोकोनट के पेड़ के ऊपर किस प्रकार से स्प्रे किया जाए, यह भी एक कठिन कार्य है। जब यह कालिंग एटेशन एडमिट हुआ था, उसके बाद हमने इसके बारे में पूरी जानकारी लेने की कोशिश की। मैंने चित्र भी देखे हैं कि वह रोग किस प्रकार से पेड़ को नुकसान पहुंचा रहा है। इस रोग को केवल माइक्रोस्कोप के द्वारा ही देखा जा सकता है। यह रोग पैटल्स के नीचे अपनी जगह बना लेता है और खासकर के यह टैंडरन्ट के ऊपर ज्यादा हमला करता है। केरल में लोगों को इस बारे में पूरी जानकारी दी जा रही है। लोगों को सलाह भी दी जा रही है कि वे इसके बारे में क्या करें।

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">जहां तक इस रोग से निपटने का सवाल है, इसके जो भी जरूरी कदम केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा उठाए जाने चाहिए, उठाए जा रहे हैं। हमारे रिसर्च सैन्टर्स में भी इसके ऊपर काम हो रहा है और लोगों को बताया जा रहा है। वैज्ञानिकों का मत है, केवल पैस्टीसाइट्स से इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं ढूंढा जा सकता है, इसके लिए हमको कभी कभी बायोलॉजिकल कंट्रोल पर ही ध्यान देना चाहिए। इस दिशा में काम भी हो रहा है। बाहर के मुल्कों में भी बायोलॉजिकल फंगस के जरिए इसको कंट्रोल किया गया था। यहां भी लैब-कन्डीशन्स में यह उपयोगी पाया गया है और जिन मुल्कों में इसका प्रयोग किया गया है, लोग ८८ प्रतिशत लोग इसको कंट्रोल करने में सफल हुए हैं। यहां पर भी इसको कंट्रोल कर रहे हैं और फिर फील्ड कन्डीशन्स में इसके असर को देखेंगे। इसके बाद देखेंगे कि यह फंगस कितने बड़े पैमाने पर उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं या उत्पादन करें। इसको हिरसुटेला-फंगस(

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">Hirsutella Fungus)

">बोलते हैं। जैसा कि बनावतवाला जी कह रहे थे कि सरकार सोई हुई है, कोई काम नहीं कर रही है, इसकी खबर कब आई, मैं उनको बताना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है। जबसे इसके बारे में खबर आई है, तबसे काम हो रहा है। यहां से उन क्षेत्रों में वैज्ञानिक गए हैं और मीटिंग हुई है। इसको बताना, मैं मुनासिब नहीं समझता था, लेकिन मैंने जवाब में ही कहा है -

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">A meeting was also taken by the Union Secretary of Agriculture in cooperation with the scientists of CPCRI, Kerala Agricultural University, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Officers of CDB, Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture of the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on the 2nd September, 1999 at Kochi to discuss this problem.

">इसके अलावा एक स्टिरियंग कमेटी भी बनाई गई है। एफर्ट्स किए जा रहे हैं कि इसको कैसे सुटेबली कंट्रोल किया जाए। हॉर्टिकल्चर कमिश्नर की चेयरमैनशिप में केरल, तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के रिप्रजेंटेटिव भी हैं।

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">तीन एग्रीकल्चरल यूनिवर्सिटीस और सी.पी.सी.आर.आई. के रिप्रजेंटेटिव्स हैं। इसे प्रोजेक्ट डायरेक्टर ऑफ बायोलॉजिकल कंट्रोल एंड ऑल इंडिया कोआर्डिनेटिड प्रोजेक्ट ऑफ माइट बना दिया गया है, और वह काम भी कर रहा है। इस बारे में वे सारे ट्रायल्स करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इसका सबसे दुरुस्त सोल्यूशन बायोलॉजिकल कंट्रोल होगा। पहली बात यह है कि कैमिकल्स महंगे हैं, उनका स्प्रे बहुत कठिन है। किसी व्यक्ति को पेड़ पर चढ़ा कर उसे स्प्रे करना पड़ेगा। उसमें काफी पैसे की जरूरत होगी। बनावतवाला जी ने कहा कि सरकार सोई हुई है, हमें बताएं कि कब क्या हुआ। १९९८-९९ में ९६ लाख रुपये रिलीज किए गए थे। उस समय केरल सरकार उसे खर्च नहीं कर सकी, क्योंकि उनके पास ट्रेनिंग की भी कमी थी। इसमें सरकार का दोष नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री जी.एम.बनावतवाला : आपने कब रिलीज किया था?

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">श्री नीतीश कुमार : १९९८-९९ में किया था।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री जी.एम.बनावतवाला : आखिरी दिन किया होगा।

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">श्री नीतीश कुमार : ऐसी बात नहीं है।

">... (व्यवधान)

">आप गवर्नमेंट से पूछ लें। मैं उसी प्वाइंट पर आ रहा हूँ। इसमें ट्रेनिंग की भी जरूरत थी। इसको ऊपर चढ़ कर स्प्रे करना पड़ता है। काफी लोगों की जरूरत होती है। उसमें पहले उनको ट्रेड करेंगे। पैसे की भी जरूरत है, वे पैसे का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सके थे। उसको १९९९-२००० में रिवेलीडेट कर दिया गया है।

">... (व्यवधान)

">हम आपके प्वाइंट पर आ रहे हैं। हम भी समझते हैं कि यह पैसा काफी नहीं है, हम यह नहीं कह रहे हैं कि बिलकुल सफिशिएंटली फंड अलाट कर दिया गया है। वहां के रिकवायरमेंट को मीट कर दिया गया है। मैं यह नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि उसे मीट नहीं किया जा सका। आपने कहा कि केरल सरकार का भी सौ करोड़ रुपए का प्रस्ताव कब आपके पास आया है। कल यह फेक्स से प्राप्त हुआ है।">

">श्री जी.एम.बनावतवाला : आप इसको चेक कर लीजिए।

... (व्यवधान)
आप इसको ठीक से चेक करके बताइए।

... (व्यवधान)
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">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Did you get it only yesterday? ... (Interruptions)

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Let me complete. ... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let him complete. If there is any other clarification to be sought, I will allow later and you cannot do like this.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A letter dated 25th November 1999 addressed by the Minister of Agriculture, Kerala to the Union Minister here was received by fax yesterday. ... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you will have to hear him.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Please bear with me. ... (Interruptions)

">SHRI A.C. JOS : On 15th November, the Minister has declared in Trichur that they had applied for it; on 24th, all the Members were called to meet the Minister. ... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jos, he is only giving you the details which was received by him. Why are you doing like this? I do not allow you. I will not allow you.

">... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him complete first. Hon. Minister, you may address the Chair and do not address the hon. Members.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. A letter dated 25th November 1999 from the Agriculture Minister of Kerala to the Union Minister here was faxed yesterday. ... (Interruptions)

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We are very sorry. ... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, he is giving you the information he received; you are not to say anything more than that. If you have anything to ask, you may do it later and not now.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am giving whatever information I have. ... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statement. (Interruptions)*

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">*Not Recorded.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The second part will satisfy all of you. ... (Interruptions)

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We are ashamed of that. I am sorry. ... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whether you are ashamed or otherwise, he is stating the information that he has received.

">... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Not like this. I will not allow you. No. I will not allow anyone. We have got another legislative business to be taken up.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A copy of the project was handed over in person to the Additional Secretary on 25.11.99, when she called on the Minister of Agriculture, Kerala at Trivandrum in connection with another meeting.

">बह बहां गयी भी थी

... (व्यवधान)
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">श्री जी.एम.बनातवाला : शुक्रिया, कम से कम यह स्पष्ट किया।

">... (व्यवधान)

">अच्छी बात है कि आप यह तर्क पेश कर रहे हैं। लेकिन कब आपको मिला?">

">श्री नीतीश कुमार: बनातवाला साहब, आपने कहा कि कब आपको मिला। मैंने दोनों बातें आपको बताईं। हमारे एडीशनल सैक्रेट्री केरल के मिनिस्टर साहब से मिलने गये थे। वहां उनको पर्सनली यह पत्र हैंड-ओवर किया गया था और उन्होंने यह फ़ैक्स भी किया, रिपोर्ट भी किया। हमें यह कब मिला

... (व्यवधान)

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">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have already stated that.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Only because of this Calling Attention, the Minister of Kerala Government has faxed this information. Otherwise, the State Government of Kerala would not have done even this.

">श्री जी.एम.बनातवाला : यह कब तक एग्जामिन होगा?

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">श्री नीतीश कुमार: कब तक एग्जामिन होगा, यह सवाल आपने अब उठाया है।

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">The Government""s response is that it is under examination.

">SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : You can declare it today itself.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shri Suresh, you please tell me under which Head I should declare it. How can I declare it right now without properly examining it?

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have only to give clarifications.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am only clarifying those points.

">श्री रामदास आठवले : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल उठाया नहीं जाता तो सरकार क्या करने वाली थी?

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">श्री नीतीश कुमार: इसको पहले पढ़ लीजिए, तब आप सवाल कीजिए। अभी आपके यहां यह नहीं पहुंचा है। भगवान से प्रार्थना है कि आपके यहां पहुंचे भी नहीं। ... (व्यवधान) यह जो नेशनल आपदा है जैसे कोई इस तरह का कीड़ा फसल में लग जाए या और कोई बीमारी लग जाए, तो हमने कहा है कि इसको ट्रीट करने की बात है। जो नेशनल फंड ऐसे मामलों के लिए है वह काफी है, एक्सेस है, वह इसमें इंतजाम है। लेकिन प्रश्न यह है कि वह किस चीज में आपके लिए होगा। जो नियम है उनके हिसाब से जो स्मॉल एंड मॉर्निंगल किसान हैं उनको अकेली फसल लेने के लिए पांच सौ रुपये प्रति-हैक्टेयर की राहत उनको उससे मिल सकती है। लेकिन सवाल यह है कि कब? जबकि उसके लिए राज्य सरकार मैमोरेण्डम सब्मिट करेगी। उसके बाद इंटरनल कमेटी, सेंट्रल टीम बनेगी और वह स्टेट का दौरा करेगी और लौटकर अपनी असेसमेंट इंटर मिनिस्ट्री ग्रुप के सामने रखेगी। फिर इंटर मिनिस्ट्री ग्रुप उसके बारे में रिक्मेंडेशन करेगा। यह एक प्रोसीजर नेशनल रिलीफ कमेटी के सामने है। यह एक प्रक्रिया है। उसमें अगर नेशनल कैलेंडरी रिलीफ फंड से आप मदद चाहते हैं तो आपको उस प्रक्रिया से आना होगा। उसमें मदद भी क्या मिल सकती है, पांच सौ रुपया प्रति-हैक्टेयर और वह भी स्मॉल और मॉर्निंगल किसान को। उसके पीछे इरादा यह है कि अकेले फसल लेने के लिए उनका एक असेसमेंट है।

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">SHRI A.C. JOS : We have a Coconut Development Board situated at Cochin. Can you channelise your funds through this Board because the Board is already seized of the matter? The Board has examined the problems and they themselves have stated that Rs. 150 crore are necessary which they themselves would provide. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would kindly check up with the Board what are their activities and alert them to do something in this matter.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The role of the Coconut Development Board has been properly narrated in the main reply itself. The main reply also talks about what different agencies put together are doing there. Now, I am just responding to specific questions of the hon. Members.

">इस मामले में जो नेशनल फंड के प्रति इनका एक्सेस है, उसके बारे में उस प्रोसेस से आना होगा लेकिन सबसे बड़ी बात पैसे की कमी की है। जो इस प्रोजेक्ट के पास पैसा है, वह अपर्याप्त है। उस पैसे से ही इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं होगा। मैंने इसके बारे में आज ही चर्चा की है और अधिकारियों के साथ भी चर्चा की है। उनसे कहा है कि इसके बारे में कोई रास्ता निकाला जाना चाहिए। मैंने विभाग को निर्देश दिया है कि एक उच्चस्तरीय दल पूरे इलाके का दौरा कर अध्ययन करे और वहां के लोगों के साथ बातचीत करे। कनसर्नड एरिया के एम.पी.जी. को ऐसा लगता है कि रिसर्च के मामले में अगर किसी चीज की जरूरत है तो वे वैज्ञानिक जो इस काम में लगे हैं, हम उनके साथ मीटिंग करा सकते हैं। तीसरी बात यह है कि इस मामले में और क्या किया जा सकता है, इसको एग्जामिन किया जा रहा है। कौसी सहायता किस मद से दी जा सकती है, हम उसे भी करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। रूट विल्ट के लिए एक परमानेंट प्रोग्राम चल रहा है। उसके माध्यम से कुछ सहायता दी जाती है। पूरे प्रोग्राम के लिए केरल को सात करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा पैसा आवंटित किया गया है। उसमें से क्या खर्च किया जा सकता है या कहीं और से पैसा निकाल कर इस मद में कितना दिया जा सकता है, हम इन बिन्दुओं पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं और कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि इस मामले में केरल के प्रभावित इलाके को बेहतर मदद कर सकें। यह बहुत गम्भीर समस्या है। इस समस्या से किसी भी तरह मुंह मोड़ने का सवाल नहीं उठता। हम इस मामले में उतने ही सैसटिव हैं जिस तरह से आप कनसर्नड हैं।

">... (व्यवधान)

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">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The Minister has not said anything about insurance.

">श्री नीतीश कुमार : जहां तक इश्योरेस का सवाल है, नई राष्ट्रीय कृषि बीमा योजना लागू हुई है, उसमें यह कवर्ड नहीं है।

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">श्री बसुदेव आचार्य (बांकुरा) : आप इसे कीजिए।

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">श्री नीतीश कुमार : कुछ समय के बाद चार-पांच साल के बाद इस तरह की जो पैरिनियल क्रॉप्स हैं

... (व्यवधान)

पैरिनियल हार्टिकल्चर कवर्ड नहीं है लेकिन जो एनवल प्लांट्स हैं, क्रॉप्स हैं, वह कवर्ड हैं। इस तरह की पैरिनियल प्लांट्स अभी कवर्ड नहीं हुई हैं। इसमें प्रीमियम का सवाल आता है। अगर वे कवर्ड होगी तो ऐक्युरियल रेट लगेगा लेकिन अगले वर्षों में इसे भी लेने पर विचार हो सकता है। फिलहाल राष्ट्रीय कृषि बीमा योजना इस बार रबी मौसम से लागू हो रही है। वह उसमें शामिल नहीं है।

... (व्यवधान)

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">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

">(Interruptions)*

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The matter ends now.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We will decide the further course of action. We will try our best to do whatever can be done.... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I am on my legs.

">The Minister has already suggested that he will have a meeting with all the concerned Members of Parliament, scientists and Members of the Coconut Board to find out some solution.

">... (Interruptions)

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

">(Interruptions) *

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The Minister should make some announcement regarding the financial assistance. We have had a very good discussion. It will be good if some amount is also released.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister has already assured that a meeting will be convened and he will announce whatever funds he can give.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It will be good if the Minister could announce it here only.

">SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

">मैंने पहले भी इस बात का उल्लेख किया कि इस मामले में आपके साथ मीटिंग करके हम चर्चा करेंगे।

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">We will do our level best. We had certain difficulties. We will now have a meeting and do whatever we can.

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">*Not Recorded.

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