

(ii) The site should be approachable easily by the DMS milk van to facilitate easy loading/unloading of milk.

(iii) The site should be duly approved by the Delhi Traffic Police.

(b) At present 5 depots are functioning in A, B, C & D sectors of Vasant Kunj and there is no depot functioning in I.P. Extension in East Delhi.

(c) and (d) The production capacity of DMS is far below the requirement of milk in Delhi. Within the limited availability of DMS milk, such facility can be extended on the basis of the policy and the criteria mentioned in part (a) of the question.

Attack of new pest on coconut cultivation in Kerala

312. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that a new type of pest "Mandari" is causing extensive destruction to coconut cultivation in Kerala; and

(b) the steps the Union Government intends to take to help the Government of Kerala to control this new pest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. "Mandari" disease is the local name for coconut mite. A large number of coconut palms in Kerala are affected by the mite.

(b) The Union Government have taken following steps to help the Government of Kerala to control this new pest:—

(i) Coconut Development Board has authorised use of an additional amount of Rs. 96.00 lakh to Government of Kerala for crop protection measures against the mite during 1999-2000.

(ii) The coconut Development Board has approved a research Project at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakh to develop affective bio-control measures.

(iii) The Coconut Development Board has brought out booklets/brochures on mite and are extending assistance for training programmes, the awareness creation campaigns are continuing where the pest incidence is reported to be very high.

(iv) Project Directorate of Bio-logical Control (ICAR) is continuing field and laboratory trials to develop effective biocontrol measures with natural enemies which offer an effective, cheap, eco-friendly and long-lasting solution to the problem. 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, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (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

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suitable control measures and management of the problem. Besides, the CPCRI and Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) are also engaged in research for devising control measures for this pest.

Subsidy on inputs

313. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the inputs on which subsidy has been allowed by his Ministry;
- (b) what is the percentage of subsidy;
- (c) whether his Ministry have any proposal to reduce or cut subsidy partially or totally on any such inputs; and
- (d) if so, the names of such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Information about major subsidies on seeds, fertilizers, micro-irrigation and agricultural implements is given in the statement. (*See below*)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

1. *Seeds*: The subsidy ranges between Rs. 200 per quintal for the certified seeds on wheat, rice and barley; Rs. 300 per quintal for oilseeds and pulses and Rs. 400 per quintal for coarse cereals. For hybrid variety of Jowar and bajra subsidy is Rs. 500 per quintal and for rice Rs. 200 per quintal.

2. *Fertilizers*: In case of fertilizers, all major fertilizers namely urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and NPK Complexes are sold to farmers at subsidised rates. The Government bears the subsidy required to enable sale of these fertilizers at the maximum retail prices indicated by the Government.

3. *Micro-Irrigation*: For sprinkler and dip irrigation, subsidy at the rate of 90% of the cost to SC, ST, small, marginal and Women farmers and 70% to other categories of farmers subject to maximum of Rs. 25000 per hectare is given.

4. *Agricultural Implements*: A subsidy of 30% limited to Rs. 30000 is given to the farmers individually or in Groups for the purchase of the tractors of up to only 30 Horse Power. For bullock driven and tractor driven farm implements subsidy of 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500 per implement per farmer is being provided. For power driven multi-purpose threshers with safety devices assistance @ 25% of the cost limited