

Development of Oil Seeds

*369. SHRI M. J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to be 'state:

(a) whether the declaration of coconut as an oil seed by the erstwhile National Front Government led by Shri V. P. Singh is still in force;

(b) if so, the stand of Government regarding the same and the follow-up actions intended in this regard; and

(c) the details/names of items in the oil seeds list and the annual recurring and non-recurring financial assistance from the Centre for the development of oil seeds, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Coconut was declared as an oilseed of tree origin in October, 1990. The declaration also states that since it is of tree origin, it should not be treated like annual oilseeds. The intention of the declaration was to emphasise, the importance of coconut as an oilseed for price support operation. Government continue to treat coconut as an oilseed of tree origin and provide support for coconut development and fix Minimum Support Price for Milling Copra and Ball Copra.

(c) The item-wise central allocation (recurring and non-recurring) for the year 1999-2000 for nine oilseeds, viz., groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, castor, niger seed, rapeseed-mustard and saf-flower under the Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is given below:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Item	Total Outlay	Central Share
(i) Production and distribution of seed	4754.00	3565.60
(ii) Demonstration	1092.60	819.60
(iii) Plant Protection	1178.70	884.00
(iv) Nutrient management	1234.00	925.60
(v) Farm implements	585.00	438.80
(vi) Distribution of sprinkler	3546.40	2659.80
(vii) Farmers training	184.00	138.00
(viii) Staff & contingencies	318.60	238.60

Item	Total Outlay	Central Share
(ix) Front line demonstrations and of breeder seed	500.00	500.00
(x) Minikit distribution	200.00	200.00
(xi) Crash programme for production of seed of groundnut and soyabean	500.00	500.00
(xii) Evaluation of Oilseeds production programme	40.00	40.00
GRAND TOTAL	14133.00	10910.00

Use of L.P.G. for Auto-Motive Vehicles

*370. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to be state:

(a) whether Government are planning to allow the use of L.P.G. for auto-motive vehicles in the country;

(b) whether Government's attention in this regard has also been drawn to the recent judgement of Chennai High Court banning the use of L.P.G. due to accidents of L.P.G.T using vehicles on Chennai roads; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to avoid possibility of disasters/accidents which may occur between vehicles running on L.P.G. and other petrol/diesel running vehicles on the road?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is considered to be an environment friendly fuel. The use thereof as automotive fuel can commence after the necessary amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act and other relevant rules are made. A Writ Petition has been filed in the Chennai High Court for banning the use of LPG as automotive fuel. The Hon'ble High Court has not passed any judgement so far.