

	1	2	3	4
9. Jammu & Kashmir	2000	1815	1700	3000
10. Himachal Pradesh	2400	2100	1589	2950
11. Uttarakhand	2839.94	2000	1700	2950
Service charges & other Project based proposals	266.35	145.12	58.93	324
C. Mini Mission - III				
SFAC and NHB for NE & Himalayan states	1175	801.95	400	1800
D. Mini Mission - IV	700	600	2050	1376
GRAND TOTAL	32176.28	29139.57	32572.13	40000.00

'Root (Wilt)' disease in coconut

1353. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) since how long the research on the 'root (wilt)' disease of coconut is going on in the country;
- (b) whether the real causes of the disease has been found out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any remedy for the 'root (wilt)' disease has been found out so far;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the action Government proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Research on root (wilt) disease of coconut was initiated in 1947 under the Central Coconut Research Station at Kayamkulam and was intensified after the formation of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in 1970 under ICAR.

(b) Yes, Sir. The causal organism to the disease was identified as phytoplasma, which is a phloem bound sub-microscopic organism.

(c) the etiology of the root (wilt) disease of coconut was established that the causal organism, phytoplasma, is transmitted by plant vectors (*Proutista moesta* and *Stephanitis typical*) which was confirmed through dodder plant inoculation and molecular detection techniques. The CPCRI has also developed a sero-diagnostic (ELISA) test for early detection of the disease.

(d) to (f) The remedial measures recommended are planting of disease resistant coconut varieties (viz. Kalparaksha and Kalpasree and Kalpa Sankara), production and distribution of disease free planting materials from mother palms identified from hot-spot diseased areas, integrated nutrient practices, and integrated leaf rot disease management practices. Large scale field demonstration of integrated root (wilt) disease management practices has been conducted which has shown 91% increase in yield of diseased palms.

Distress sale of coconut

1354. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that coconut growers in Kerala are selling their products at 'distress sale' owing to very low price in the market;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to save the coconut farming in Kerala; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Sir, there is no 'distress sale' by coconut growers in Kerala owing to low price in the market because coconut is not a perishable product. 'Distress sale' takes place for fruits/vegetables which are perishable in nature and have short shelf life which is not the case with coconut. Moreover, monthly average price of coconut with husk in Thiruvananthapuram market, Kerala during 2010 is Rs.4683/- per thousand nuts as against Rs.4176 per thousand nuts in 2009 which is given in Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Government of India regularly announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for both milling and edible grade ball copra and also for de-husked coconut sufficiently in advance to the