

(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, phytoplasm, 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

procurement season. Details of MSP for last three years for ball and milling copra and de-husked coconut is given in Statement (*See below*).

NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for undertaking procurement of Oilseeds including milling/ball copra & de-husked coconut under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the MSP declared by the Govt, of India. Procurement of de-husked coconut under PSS has been undertaken in Kerala through the State Level Supporters/Procurement Societies also which are having required infrastructure for converting de-husked coconut into milling copra as per FAQ standards.

NAFED has procured 21145 MT and 19990 MT of milling copra @ Rs.44500 per MT for the crop season 2009 and 2010 respectively and has also procured 15000 MT and 19611 MT de-husked coconut @ Rs. 12000 per MT for the crop season 2009 and 2010 respectively. Further procurements of milling/ball copra & de-husked coconut are in progress.

Price of coconut has started showing signs of improvement and it is expected that during forthcoming festival season (Onam) it would improve further.

Statement

*Monthly Average price of coconut (with husk) at
Thiruvananthapuram market (Rs. per 1000 nuts)*

Months/Year	2009	2010
1	2	3
January	5096	4250
February	5250	4533
March	5000	4694
April	4300	4773
May	4000	4800
June	3850	5045
July	3788	

1	2	3
August	3550	
September	3750	
October	3750	
November	3750	
December	4030	
Average	4176	4683

Minimum Support Price (Rs. per quintal)

		2008	2009	2010	Increase in MSP 2009 & 2010 over 2008	Percentage increase
COPRA	Milling	3660	4450	4450	790	21.6
	Ball	3910	4700	4700	790	20.2
De-husked Coconut		988	1200	1200	212	21.5

Crops insurance scheme

†1355. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to the State of Rajasthan under crop insurance scheme during the year 2009-10; and

(b) whether Government proposes to extend crop insurance scheme to all the crops in order to provide relief to the farmers and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Funds provided towards Government of India share under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) during 2009-10 in Rajasthan are Rs.66.16 crore and Rs.69.40 respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.