

#### **Availability of quality seeds of coconut**

938. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to make available quality seeds and saplings of hybrid, disease resistant, dwarf and other varieties to coconut at subsidized rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has been implementing scheme for the production and distribution of quality planting materials since VIIIth five year plan. The main objective of this scheme is to enhance the production and supply of quality planting material in both government and private sector to ensure the availability of quality seedlings for planting and replanting.

Major components of the aforesaid scheme are:

- a) Establishment of Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms for coconut
- b) Setting up of coconut nurseries attached to DSP farms
- c) Establishment of regional coconut nurseries
- d) Aid to registered/approved/private Coconut nurseries and seed gardens and
- e) Production and distribution of hybrids/other local tall seedlings.

Since its inception, more than 195 lakhs seedlings, including hybrids and dwarf varieties were produced and distributed by the Board. Besides this, about 28 lakhs quality seedlings were also procured and supplied to various agencies in different states by it.

#### **Protection to coconut growers**

939. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the coconut growers often suffer destruction of coconut trees due to crop diseases, pest attack and natural calamity;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to introduce a peasant-friendly crop insurance to protect the coconut growers;

(c) whether Government will consider a proposal to declare remunerative price for coconut and create adequate marketing mechanism to ensure this price to the coconut growers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) To protect the coconut growers, Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) is under implementation since December, 2009. This scheme is being implemented on pilot basis in selected districts in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

This scheme is applicable to all healthy nut-bearing coconut palms, grown as mono or intercropped, on bunds farms or homestead and to all varieties of coconut, having age of 4-60 years (tall variety age range 7-60 years), excluding unhealthy and senile palms, to be insured through Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd (AIC). Insured sum vary from Rs.600 per palm (for 4th - 15th year age group) to Rs.1150 per palm (for 16th to 60th year age group). Fifty percent of premium subsidy amount is borne by CDB (Central Government), 25% by participating state and 25% by the beneficiary.

(c) and (d) 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. For the year 2011, the Govt. of India has fixed MSP at Rs.4525/- per quintal for FAQ grade milling copra and Rs.4775/- per quintal for edible ball copra. The MSP for raw coconut is fixed at Rs.12/- per Kg.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (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 Government of India. Procurement is also undertaken through State Government agencies notified by the respective State Governments.

#### **Production techniques for small land holdings**

†940. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the land in agriculture sector have small holdings;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.