

#### **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;