

prevalent in Kerala for the last many years. The disease is present now in varying intensities in Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Idikky, Ernakulam and Trichur districts. It is estimated that out of 7 lakh hectares of coconut plantations in the State about 2.5 lakh hectares are affected by this disease in varying degree.

Since the research has not yet succeeded in establishing the etiology of the disease eradication of the disease entirely by chemical or biological methods is not presently feasible. The dwarf X tall and tall X dwarf hybrids are said to be tolerant to the disease, though not resistant, atleast during first fifteen years of plant life. Whether these hybrids show any field tolerance to the disease is being tested by implementing a Centrally Sponsored Pilot Project for rejuvenation of diseased gardens in one of the worst disease affected areas of the State. Under this scheme, it has been proposed to cover 5000 ha. in a phased programme @ 1000 ha. annually. About 3000 hectares have been covered so far by supplying about 66000 hybrid coconut seedlings free of cost in lieu of equal number of diseased palms removed from 1973 onwards. Based on the results available from this project, the future programme of replanting is to be planned.

Pazhassi Project

127. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) the original estimated cost of Pazhassi Project in Kerala;

(b) the amount of money spent on the project so far; and

(c) the amount of money still needed of its completion and what are the reasons for delay in the completion of the project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) to (c) Pazhassi Project was originally approved for an estimated cost of Rs. 4.42 crores in April, 1964. The project is at present estimated to cost Rs. 17.40 crores. The expenditure incurred on the project upto the end of March, 1976 as Rs. 6.72 crores; leaving a balance of Rs. 10.68 crores to complete the project. The delay in the execution of the project is on account of the inability of the

State Government to provide adequate funds for the projects.

Completion of Irrigation Projects in Kerala

128. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that seven major irrigation projects in Kerala which were started around the year 1961 and were scheduled to be completed in seven years, have not yet been completed ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the loss suffered due to non-completion of these projects in time ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Seven major irrigation projects of Kerala which were taken up for execution in the early sixties have not so far been completed on account of the inability of the State Government to provide adequate funds for the same.

(c) It is not possible to quantify the loss due to non-completion of these projects as the available financial resources of the State were utilised in other sectors which otherwise would have been adversely affected.

Setting up of a Regional Cancer Institute at Medical College, Trivandrum

129. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government have submitted a proposal to the Central Government for setting up a Regional Cancer Institute at the Medical College, Trivandrum and have requested for financial assistance for the purpose;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Central Government have approached the W. H. O. for financial assistance for this project; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A.K.M. ISHAQUE) : (a) Yes.