

**Statement**

Research is being conducted on the Root-Wilt disease of coconut in Kerala mainly at the Regional Research Station, Kayangulam of the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The precise cause of the Root-Wilt disease has not yet been finally established. Various types of micro-organisms like fungi, bacteria, nematodes, viruses and mycoplasma like organisms (MLOs) were reported to be associated with the diseased palms. Of these, the MLOs have been claimed to be consistently associated with diseased palms only. Further research on the transmission and possible association of insect vectors are being carried out in an intensive research programme of the Institute

Even though the cause of the Root Wilt disease is yet to be finally established, the scientists after detailed investigations have suggested the following ameliorative measures to reduce losses due to this disease :

- (i) Collection and screening of different cultivars and hybrids of coconut for disease tolerance and high yield under good management practices. Already 2500 nuts of 24 different types were collected by the CPCRI scientists from the Polynesian and Solomon islands in 1982 and grown under quarantine conditions in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This germplasm will be screened against root wilt disease and the resistant ones will be used for upgrading our indigenous coconut types.
- (ii) Taking up adaptive research programmes (a) to contain and prevent further spread of the disease in the northern border of Trichur district after removal of all disease affected palms; (b) to carry out prophylactic plant protection measures on soil and adjacent palms and (c) to plant quality seedlings raised in disease free areas.
- (iii) Rehabilitation of affected plants

by adopting a set of package of practices like organic recycling, mixed cropping/inter-cropping, addition of plant nutrients, spraying fungicides and adopting good management.

- (iv) Advocating removal of wilt affected uneconomic palms to avoid spread of inoculum.

**Damage to Coconut Tress due to  
Root-Wilt Disease**

89. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the extent of damage to coconut trees due to the root-wilt disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of Central assistance provided for giving relief to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A survey was conducted during August, 1984 covering the eight districts in Kerala namely Trichur, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam, Alleppey, Quilon, Pathanamthitta and Trivandrum where root-wilt disease is prevalent, jointly by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, State Government of Kerala, Coconut Development Board, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala Agricultural University and Central Plant Protection Station of Government of India at Cochin. The Survey has brought out that there is an increase of the incidence of the disease by thirty per cent in the bearing palms since the last survey conducted in 1976. The spread of disease in the bearing and non-bearing palms in the eight districts are as follow :—

	Total No. of Palms (‘000)	No. of disease Palms (‘000)
Bearing Palms	59188	24209
Non-bearing Palms	32358	5422

(c) A sum of Rs. 54.75 lakh has been released through the Coconut Development Board in the Sixth Plan as Government of India's share under the Scheme to be matched by an equal amount by the State Government of Kerala for providing financial assistance to the coconut growers. Under this Scheme cash assistance is given to the growers for removal of disease affected trees @ Rs. 75 per tree and 50% subsidy on the cost of seedling and inputs such as fertiliser and plant protection chemicals. Another Scheme for rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive plantation in Kerala is implemented in the State as Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Scheme envisages supply of 4.4 lakh hybrid seedlings and fertiliser at 50 per cent cost. The total cost of the Scheme during Sixth Plan is Rs. 102.93 lakhs to be shared equally by the Centre and the State Government.

#### Likely Power Famine in Kerala

90. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala is likely to experience a power famine by the end of 1985; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Kerala is purely a hydel power system. With a normal rainfall during 1985, it is expected that Kerala will be able to meet its energy requirements.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Micro-Hydel Project in Arunachal Pradesh

91. SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to set up a series of Micro-Hydel Projects near Sessa in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, their present position;

(c) whether equipments purchased for these projects are lying unutilized due to delay in work;

(d) whether despite the cost of production per unit of electricity being very low, the projects are being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b), (d) and (e). The revised project report of Sessa Micro Hydel Scheme (3×500 KW) in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, received in October, 1983, is under examination in Central Electricity Authority and Central Water Commission. The Project authorities have been requested to depute their engineers for discussing the civil design aspects of the project with Central Water Commission. The scheme would be taken up for clearance, after its techno-economic feasibility is established.

(c) Information is being collected from the Union Territory authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Recommendation of Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members

92. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament has recommended enhanced pension and first class railway passes for ex-Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). (i) Pension payable to