

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2734

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005

PRODUCTION OF DISEASE FREE SEEDLINGS FOR COCONUT AND ARECANUT PLANTLETS

Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has standardized tissue culture protocols for mass production of disease free seedlings for coconut and arecanut plantlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be made available to the growers in Kerala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Arecanut tissue culture protocol for mass production of disease tolerant/resistant (yellow leaf disease) arecanut palms have been standardized.

However, Coconut tissue culture technique for mass multiplication is not yet successful. The experiments are continuing in this line at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod for standardizing the mass production of coconut seedlings through tissue culture.

(c) The arecanut tissue culture plantlets will be made available to the farmers of Kerala during 2008-09.