

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3842
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
PACKAGE FOR FARMERS
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some State Governments have requested for a package for the farmers in their respective States particularly from Government of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The Government of Kerala has recently submitted a Memorandum on major issues, including agriculture, concerning development of Kerala. The issues regarding agriculture includes, inter alia, expansion in the scope of the Price Support Scheme; inclusion of perennial crops under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme; reduction in interest rates for agricultural loans; market intervention subsidy; management of root wilt affected coconut holdings and enhancement of productivity of coconut; problems of arecanut farmers and project to deal with yellow leaf disease affected arecanut palms.

(c): The Government is implementing and releasing funds to the Government of Kerala through its major schemes like the Macro Management of Agriculture; schemes of the Coconut Development Board; National Agricultural Insurance Scheme; etc. The Government has taken several other measures to help the farmers of the country including Kerala. This includes

(i) operation of the Price Support Scheme for 25 agricultural commodities;

(ii) announcement and implementation of a comprehensive credit policy since 18th June, 2004, involving doubling of credit flow to the agriculture sector in three years and debt restructuring for farmers in distress/ in arrears and One Time Settlement Scheme for settling old and chronic loans of small and marginal farmers;

(iii) implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities including arecanut and pepper, on the request of a State/UT Government. In fact, the Government has implemented the Market Intervention Scheme, on the request of the Government of Kerala, for procurement of 5050 MT of black pepper at a price of Rs.7000 per quintal with effect from 15.2.2005 to 15.4.2005. During the Xth Five Year Plan, Rs.24.85 crore has already been released by the Coconut Development Board in Kerala and Rs.91.10 lakhs was released exclusively for removal of diseased arecanut palms in 2004-05. The Government has also approved the Annual Action Plan (2005-06) for implementation of the National Horticulture Mission and released Rs.30.33 crore to the State Government of Kerala.