

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3508
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
SHORTAGE OF HYBRID AND COCONUT SAPLINGS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the hybrid, disease resistant and quality seeds and saplings of coconut are not sufficiently available in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet this situation;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to utilise the services of unemployed youths to start nurseries with the assistance and supervision of the Coconut Development Board and also the Agriculture Department of the State Governments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The hybrid seeds and saplings released by the Central Plantation Crop Research (CPCRI), Kasargod and State Agricultural Universities are inadequate because of the non-availability of the sufficient number of dwarf mother palms that are used as one of the parents in the hybridization programme. Besides there are also difficulties involved in the artificial hybridization, low setting percentage of nuts and low recovery of hybrid seedlings.

(b): The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has evolved a multi pronged strategy for addressing this problem by strengthening the infrastructure in the State Government nurseries, providing quality seedlings through the CDB farms and also by supporting private nurseries. Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala with the help of Department of Agriculture, Kerala have established four seed gardens in Kerala for planting field tolerant Root (wilt) disease progenies, so as to generate disease resistant hybrids for distribution to the farmers.

(c) & (d): CDB is implementing a Scheme of Production and Distribution of Planting Materials under which, financial assistance is provided to private entrepreneurs. Including unemployed youth for promoting coconut nurseries so as to produce and supply quality saplings. An assistance of Rs.2.00 lakhs is provided for starting a coconut nursery with the production capacity of 25,000 seedlings annually. CDB also provides training to nursery owners and unemployed youth for nursery management and hybridization techniques at the Demonstration- cum-Seed Production farm, Neriamanglam, Kerala to promote hybrid and quality seedling production in the private sector.