

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2111

TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/08/2024

Support to coconut farmers of Karnataka

2111. SHRI AJAY MAKAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coconut farmers of Karnataka are facing problems because the price of copra have fallen from ₹14,500 to ₹9,400 per quintal, considering the fact that coconut cultivation has grown in Karnataka over the last 20 years;
- (b) if so, whether Government is aware of this steep fall in price of copra; and
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to support coconut farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Karnataka holds first position in coconut production and second position in area under cultivation in the country. The area under cultivation in the state is 733.32 thousand hectare and the production is 7262.37 million nuts (2023-24 - second estimate).

The price falls in coconut, both milling copra and ball copra has been addressed by the Government through the Price Support Scheme. Government of India announces Minimum Support Price for milling copra and ball copra every year. The MSP is Rs. 11,160/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 12,000/- per quintal for ball copra for season 2024. During the year 2024-25, a total of 68107.28 MT of ball copra has been procured at MSP under the Price Support Scheme in the state of Karnataka. A total of Rs. 81728.74 lakhs being the value of the ball copra procured has been incurred by Government of India which has extended relief to the small and marginal coconut farmers at the time of price crash.

The Coconut Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is also promoting processing and product diversification in coconut so as to reduce the dependence on copra and thereby ensure a fair and remunerative price for the farmers. A total number of 112 Coconut processing units have been supported and financial assistance extended in the state of Karnataka since 2001-02. Further Board implement various productivity improvement schemes to increase the productivity of coconut to enhances income from unit area resulting in enhanced income to coconut farmers.

During the year 2024-25, an amount of Rs.22.99 Crores has been allotted to Karnataka for implementing various schemes of the Board, of which Rs.18.78 Crores was allotted for the productivity improvement schemes 'Integrated farming for productivity improvement' and Rs.1.86 crores for 'Replanting and Rejuvenation of old coconut gardens' the balance amount of Rs 2.35 crores earmarked for planting material production programmes, extension activities and insurance scheme. Further an amount of Rs 50.00 Crores was made available during the last financial year under "Integrated farming for productivity improvement scheme".
