

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 223**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19/12/2025

**SALTWATER INTRUSION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND**

\*223. SHRI SANA SATHISH BABU:

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

- (a) Whether Government has recognised the issue of saltwater intrusion affecting agricultural land in coastal and deltaic districts of the country, including the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) If so, the schemes and types of assistance available to support the affected farmers;
- (c) the details of any assessments or surveys conducted to identify salt-affected areas;
- (d) Whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) or other agencies have carried out research on restoring productivity in such lands; and
- (e) Whether Government proposes any special package for farmers whose paddy and coconut land has become unproductive due to salinity?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 223 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025 REGARDING “SALTWATER INTRUSION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND”**

(a) & (b): Government has recognised the issue of saltwater intrusion affecting agricultural land in coastal and deltaic districts of the country, including the State of Andhra Pradesh. Various interventions are being implemented through crop- and region-specific schemes to mitigate soil and water-related stresses and to support affected farmers. Coconut Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been implementing several programmes across the country, including Andhra Pradesh, to address productivity constraints, soil and water stress, and livelihood challenges faced by farmers. The Schemes and types of assistance available for the affected farmers is given at **Annexure**. These schemes are implemented both directly by the Board and through the concerned State Governments based on identified thrust areas. During the last five years, the CDB utilised a total amount of ₹39,410.82 lakh for various field-oriented schemes throughout India, of which ₹5,820.35 lakh (14.76%) was utilised in Andhra Pradesh.

(c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has assessed the total coastal salt affected area in the country to the extent of 12.9 lakh ha. In Andhra Pradesh nearly 1.06 lakh ha area is affected by salt. For restoration of salt affected soils in coastal areas, technologies viz. land shaping models (farm pond, paddy-cum-fish with/without brackish water aquaculture, deep furrow and high ridge, shallow furrow and medium ridge), integrated nutrient management, micro-irrigation systems, designing of river embankment to arrest ingress of saline water in agricultural land, agronomic practices, suitable crops and their varieties, conservation tillage practices, agroforestry system, integrated farming system, etc. have been suggested to alleviate soil salinity and improve agricultural productivity. Salt tolerant varieties of rice (Goa Dhan 3 and Goa Dhan 4), wheat (KRL210 and KRL 283) and use of bio formulations (Goa Bio-1 and Goa Bio-2) are also suggested for improved productivity of crops in these areas.

(d): ICAR has been undertaking basic, strategic and applied research across diverse agro-climatic situations, including salt-affected lands, to address issues related to food security and restoration of agricultural productivity. The focus of these research programmes is on the development of crop varieties and hybrids tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses, including salinity stress, with improved yield and quality traits. ICAR also recommends location-specific high-yielding varieties and appropriate crop management technologies and practices for salt-affected areas for adoption by farmers. During the period 2014–25, ICAR released 80 salinity-tolerant crop varieties, including 40 of rice, 2 of wheat, 4 of barley, 6 of Indian mustard, 4 of lentil, 2 of mung bean, 1 each of pearl millet, urad bean, fodder crop Sesbania and forage oats, and 18 varieties of sugarcane.

(e): For the year 2025–26, an amount of ₹23500.00 lakh has been proposed for implementation of various schemes of the Coconut Development Board across the country. Of this, an amount of ₹3,070.67 lakh has been earmarked for the State of Andhra Pradesh. The key interventions include replanting and rejuvenation of coconut gardens, integrated farming and nutrient management, establishment of demonstration-cum-seed production farms, expansion of area under coconut cultivation, and capacity-building and awareness programmes, aimed at enhancing coverage and improving productivity.

**SCHEMES OF COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**1. Production of Quality Planting Material:**

- **Demonstration cum Seed Production (DSP) Farms- Setting up of new and maintenance of existing DSP Farms:** The Coconut Development Board has established 11 DSP Farms across various. Each new farm is allocated ₹30 lakh for the initial two years for development. From the third year onwards, till the farm reaches yield stability, maintenance support of ₹1 lakh per hectare per year is provided.
- **Assistance for Quality Planting Material production in Public Sector Nurseries:** For enhancing the production and availability of quality coconut seedlings, 50% of the seedling production cost @ ₹20 per seedling is provided to public sector nurseries.
- **Establishment of Nucleus Coconut Seed Gardens:** The scheme provides financial assistance of 50% of the project cost, amounting to ₹3.60 lakh per hectare (against a total cost of ₹7.20 lakh per hectare), for a maximum area of 4 hectares per unit. The assistance is released in three instalments in the ratio of 50:25:25 on a project basis.
- **Establishment of Small Coconut Nurseries:** The scheme offers assistance up to ₹90 per seedling, covering 100% of the cost for public sector and 50% for private sector nurseries in two equal installments.
- **Accreditation and Rating of Coconut Nurseries:** Financial assistance of up to ₹1.50 lakh is provided for nurseries producing a minimum of 20,000 seedlings annually.

**2. Expansion of Area under Coconut Cultivation:**

For new coconut plantation, assistance is provided @ ₹56,000 per hectare in two equal annual installments for a minimum of 0.08 ha and a maximum of 2 ha per beneficiary.

**3. Comprehensive Programmes for Sustainable Productivity Improvement in Existing Coconut Holdings**

- **Productivity Improvement through Coconut-Based Cropping Systems – PICCS:** To enhance the productivity and income of coconut farmers through an integrated farming approach 100% financial assistance up to ₹42,000 per hectare, limited to 2 hectares per beneficiary is provided in two equal annual installments.
- **Creation of Water Resources in Coconut Gardens (i) by individual farmer and (ii) On community basis :** The scheme implemented as per National Horticulture Mission norms
- **Adoption of Organic Farming in Coconut:** The scheme is as per Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) norms.
- **Organic certification of coconut garden :** The scheme is as per PKVY norms.
- **Farm Mechanisation in Coconut Plantation :** The scheme implemented as per the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization norms.

**4. Technology Demonstration/Quality Testing lab :**

The **Coconut Development Board Institute of Technology (CIT)**, Aluva plays a key role in developing and transferring technologies for value-added coconut products, conducting NABL-accredited quality testing, and organising short-term, hands-on training programmes in coconut processing and value addition.

**5. Market Intelligence& Research, Product and Brand Promotion and Export services :**

The scheme is for market promotion, expansion of market access, improvement in product quality, and creation of new opportunities for farmers, processors, entrepreneurs, and exporters. The major activities undertaken include market promotional initiatives for both domestic and export markets.

**6. Capacity Building, Training and Awareness Programmes and Information Technolgy:**

The scheme covers awareness creation, publicity, skill development, livelihood support, training and strategic collaborations to ensure that coconut farmers, entrepreneurs, processors, artisans, and other stakeholders to better equipped to face emerging challenges and seize new opportunities.

**7. The Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC) :**

Projects on processing and product diversification, development and demonstration are funded up to ₹100 lakh to Public institutions. The adoption projects is incentivized through back-ended capital subsidies of 25% in general areas and 50% in high-cost areas, with a maximum cap of

Rs.500 lakhs. Financial assistance is also extended for projects on development and demonstration of technologies for Pest and Disease Management. Public institutions conducting R&D or demonstrations in pest/disease control are eligible for 100% funding up to ₹500 lakh, while adoption of such technologies is subsidized at 25% of the project cost.

**8. Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens:**

The scheme has three components, with a total financial assistance limit of ₹54,000 per hectare over two years. For Cutting and Removal of Senile/Diseased Palms Rs.1000 per palm, subject to a maximum of Rs.32000/ha (32 palms per hectare), Rejuvenation of Existing Palms Rs 17500/- per ha in two annual installments of Rs.8750/- each and Replanting @ 50% cost subject to a maximum of Rs 4,500/- ha (Rs.45/- per seedling) is extended.

**9. Coconut Palm Insurance Schemes :**

Scheme to safeguard both coconut palms and the workers engaged in coconut sector activities, thereby ensuring comprehensive risk coverage for the crop as well as the livelihood of workers..

**10. Kerasuraksha Insurance Scheme**

A comprehensive group personal accident insurance Scheme for safeguarding the livelihoods of workers engaged in the coconut sector. Annual premium is Rs 956/- and is shared between Board and the beneficiary in the ratio of 85:15. Premium share to be borne by the applicant is Rs 143/-.

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