

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1351
ANSWERED ON 11/02/2025

ASSISTANCE TO ARECANUT CROP

1351. SHRI G KUMAR NAIK:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has considered setting up an Arecanut Board for the development of arecanut cultivation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of various support measures, including financial assistance, subsidies and research initiatives, provided by the Government for arecanut growers; and
- (d) whether the Government has introduced any schemes or programs to address challenges faced by arecanut farmers, including price fluctuations, disease management and market access and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d) The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing various programmes for development of horticulture crops including arecanut in the country. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides assistance for development of nurseries, plant protection, irrigation, infrastructure for preconditioning and laying of demonstration on farmer's field for arecanut. Interest subvention for projects related to creation of infrastructure for storage, primary processing and marketing of arecanut is also available under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme (AIF).

The research and development of arecanut, at present, is undertaken by regional stations of Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute's (ICAR-CPCRI) in Vittal (Karnataka), Kahikuchi (Assam) and Mohit Nagar (West Bengal). The institute has developed promising varieties for arecanut cultivation viz. tall varieties, semi tall varieties and dwarf hybrids. CPCRI has standardized operating procedure for spraying through drones in arecanut, tissue culture protocol for mass multiplication of dwarf hybrids & disease tolerant varieties, establishing relationship between weather and leaf spot disease of arecanut, developing IoT gadget for diagnosis & management of diseases, pests and nutrient deficiencies in arecanut.

The Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) is promoting the technology of multi-species cropping in existing arecanut gardens by conducting training programmes. The Directorate demonstrates the effect of the new fungicide Mandipropamid in management of fruit rot in selected areas of Kerala, Karnataka and also lays demonstration to popularize the use of EPN (Entomopathogenic Nematode) in management of root grubs in Arecanut.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India intervenes whenever there is a severe incidence of diseases & suggests remedial measures and provides financial assistance on the request of the State Government. In 2024-25 Ministry of agriculture, DA&FW allocated funds Rs. 3700.00 lakhs under MIDH scheme for management of Arecanut Leaf Spot disease in Karnataka.

Government of India implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a crop insurance scheme that provides financial assistance to farmers in India for suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events. The arecanut crop is also covered under Restructured Weather Crop Based Insurance Scheme (RWCBS) scheme in Karnataka.
