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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 614
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD February, 2026

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENT COCONUT CULTIVATION

614. SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the initiatives undertaken by the Government on climate and disaster resilience in coconut cultivation in Andhra Pradesh during last three years, district-wise especially Konaseema;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of recurring cyclones, coastal flooding and salinity on coconut yield and productivity in Konaseema district, if so, findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified/designated any climate-resilient/high-yielding coconut varieties suitable for cyclone-prone coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, especially Konaseema district, if so details thereof,

(d) the details of the funds allocated, released, utilised for distribution of climate-resilient coconut seedlings and promotion of resilient cultivation in Andhra Pradesh during last three years, district-wise;

(e) the number of training and awareness programmes conducted for coconut farmers on disaster preparedness and resilient cultivation in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Konaseema district; and

(f) whether the Government plans to establish dedicated research/training/field centre for climate and disaster resilient coconut farming in Konaseema district, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Government is promoting climate resilience and value-addition initiatives in coconut cultivation, particularly in Konaseema district, with support from the Coconut Development Board and various Central and State schemes. Under the Rejuvenation and Replanting Scheme, financial assistance is being provided to coconut growers for the removal of senile and disease-affected coconut palms and for replanting with quality seedlings. Through the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana,

support is extended for the creation of climate-resilient infrastructure such as pack houses and coconut collection centres to reduce post-harvest losses. The Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society promotes coconut-based value-addition activities, including virgin coconut oil, desiccated coconut powder and coconut oil, to reduce farmers' dependence on raw nut sales. In addition, under the Thotabadi initiative, horticulture officers undertake weekly field-level monitoring for pest and disease outbreaks, such as Rugose Spiraling Whitefly, and provide regular training and advisories to farmers at Rythu Seva Kendras.

(b) & (c): As reported by State of Andhra Pradesh, impact of recurring cyclones, coastal flooding and salinity on coconut yield and productivity in Konaseema district is being monitored regularly. The Horticulture Research Station (HRS), Ambajipeta is continuously monitoring farms through field observations, farmer feedback and experimental trials. The post-monsoon period of October to November is identified as the most cyclone-prone season over the Bay of Bengal, affecting the Andhra Pradesh coast including Konaseema. During the last three years, Cyclone Montha (2025) caused the most direct impact on Konaseema, while cyclones such as Fengal (2024) and Michaung (2023) influenced coastal weather with relatively lesser impact on the core coconut belt.

The assessments further revealed that cyclones and high-velocity winds caused uprooting of palms, crown damage and severe nut fall in coconut plantations, particularly during intense cyclonic events. Coastal flooding and tidal surges led to temporary waterlogging and increased soil salinity, adversely affecting root health, nutrient uptake and overall palm vigour. Salinity stress resulted in reduced nut yield, delayed flowering and a higher incidence of nutrient deficiencies, especially potassium and boron. It was also observed that plantations with improved drainage, higher organic matter application and balanced nutrient management showed better recovery and relatively stable yields.

Specific studies on salinity and drainage indicated that blockage of the Sankaraguptam drain due to siltation and encroachments caused saline backwater intrusion, affecting nearly one lakh coconut trees across nine villages, including Kesanapalli and Gollapalem, with yield losses exceeding 40 per cent in Razole and Malikipuram mandals. During Cyclone Michaung in December 2023, about 309 coconut trees were uprooted, while Cyclone Montha in October 2025 resulted in uprooting of approximately 1,291 trees. Based on these findings, location-specific advisories and resilience-oriented management practices have been recommended to the Department of Horticulture and coconut farmers of Konaseema district.

As reported by State of Andhra Pradesh, climate-resilient and high-yielding coconut varieties suitable for cyclone-prone coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, including Konaseema district have been identified and being evaluated. The Horticulture Research Station (HRS), Ambajipeta, in coordination with the ICAR–Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), is conducting research on coconut varieties with improved resilience to climatic stresses. EC Tall and Godavari Ganga varieties have demonstrated comparatively better resilience and yield stability in farmers' fields.

(d): During the last three years, the Horticultural Research Station (HRS), Ambajipeta received financial assistance of ₹14,68,110 from the Coconut Development Board (CDB) and utilized it for raising and supplying coconut seedlings and for supporting improved and resilient coconut cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. Under this support, seedlings of EC Tall and Godavari Ganga varieties, which have shown relatively better performance under adverse weather conditions based on farmers' field experiences, were propagated and distributed across districts, including coastal areas.

(e) & (f): Training and awareness programmes have been conducted for coconut farmers in Andhra Pradesh, including Konaseema district, through research stations and on-farm activities, focusing on remedial and ameliorative measures for managing the effects of adverse climatic conditions. Such programmes were organized on need basis as part of regular extension efforts. During the last three years, 10 training programmes and 15 demonstrations were conducted at research stations and in farmers' fields to create awareness on appropriate management practices.

In addition, ICAR through KVKs have also conducted 22 training and 23 awareness programs on disaster preparedness and climate resilient cultivation of coconut including 1 training and 2 awareness programs in Konaseema region during 2024-25, benefitting 1282 coconut farmers.

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