

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 123

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2025

DEVELOPMENT OF POLLACHI COCONUT CLUSTER

*123. SHRI ESWARASAMY K:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved Rs. 250 crore Pollachi Coconut Cluster project under the Cluster Development Programme of the National Horticulture Board;
- (b) if so, the timelines for sanction, fund release and implementation of the same and whether any delays have been reported in operationalising the project;
- (c) whether the farmers including Farmer Producer Organizations and Cooperatives are sufficiently informed and supported to submit proposals;
- (d) the steps taken to ensure timely infrastructure development in pre-production, value addition, logistics and branding as announced; and
- (e) whether the Government will ensure that funds do not remain unutilised and take accountability for any lapses affecting farmers' income realisation in Pollachi region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 123 FOR 09TH DECEMBER, 2025 REGARDING
DEVELOPMENT OF POLLACHI COCONUT CLUSTER**

(a): The Government has not approved any such proposal. However, Government has identified the Pollachi region in Tamil Nadu as a potential cluster for the development of coconut under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) owing to its established prominence as one of the country's major coconut-producing belts, high concentration of coconut plantation, favourable agro-climatic conditions, well developed ecosystem of farmers, FPOs, and strong linkage and demonstrated potential for expansion of post-harvest, processing and export-oriented activities. Accordingly, TANHODA was identified by the State as the Cluster Development Agency (CDA) on 02.09.2024 for Pollachi region. The Cluster Development Agency (CDA), in consultation with the National Horticulture Board (NHB), carried out a Cluster Gap Assessment Report for the development of coconut, which was prepared and submitted by TANHODA on 22.02.2025.

(b): As per the prescribed procedure under the Cluster Development Programme, the Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of the Implementing Agency (IA) for the Pollachi Coconut Cluster was issued on 09.05.2025 and two applications were received. On scrutiny of these application it has been found that one applicant does not qualify the eligibility criteria as prescribed in the Guidelines. As regards the second application, some deficiencies have been found including non-submission of financial statements, turnover details, CA-certified net-worth certificates of shareholders and a complete component-wise financial breakup, which are required to be rectified for its onward process. The same was communicated to State Government/TANHODA (CDA) for rectification and resubmission for further consideration.

(c): Multiple stakeholder consultations have been conducted to ensure that farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and cooperatives are adequately informed and supported. TANHODA and NHB conducted extensive stakeholder consultation meetings on 13.02.2024, 18.12.2024, 24.12.2024 and 08.03.2025, involving progressive coconut farmers, FPOs, cooperatives, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University Scientist and private sector firms. A pre-bid meeting was also held on 26.05.2025 with interested bidders to address the queries.

(d) & (e): As per the prescribed procedure, strict timelines have been laid down for timely development of infrastructure across pre-production, value addition, logistics, and branding components. Further, the online CDP Suraksha Portal has been developed to facilitate smooth fund transfer and ensure end-to-end transparency and accountability during project implementation. The portal provides a robust mechanism for effective fund utilisation, real-time monitoring, and seamless transfer of financial assistance through transparent e-rupee processes. These measures collectively strengthen accountability and minimize operational lapses, thereby safeguarding farmers' income realisation.
