

are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition field demonstration on farmers holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Declining prices of Coconut

2017. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to arrest decline in prices of coconut and its products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) furnish the details of copra prices from 1995-96 to 2000-2001;

(d) what are the steps taken by this Government to assist the coconut farmers to come out of economic losses arising from this fall in prices;

(e) whether Government have imported coconuts from Colombo and Phillipines; and

(f) whether Government would reconsider the policy of importing edible oils so as to protect the interest of coconut farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) To protect the interest of the copra growers, the National Agriculture Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) undertook price support operation of copra and as on 07.08.2000 purchased a total quantity of 77329 tonnes of milling copra in the copra growing States. Further purchases are continuing.

(c) The month-end wholesale prices of copra are given in the Statement enclosed. (See below).

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to assist the coconut farmers:

(i) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra have been raised as under:

<i>(Rs./Quintal)</i>		
Commodity	1995	2000
Copra Milling	2500	3250
Copra Ball	2725	3500

(ii) NAFED continues to act as a central nodal agency for undertaking price support operation of copra.

(iii) copra has been treated as an oil seed.

(iv) Under the present EXIM Policy, copra is in restricted list and attracts a basic import duty of 35%. Coconut oil is canalized through State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation (HVOC).

(v) Coconut oil has been recognised as an edible oil. The standards of quality have been laid down under PFA and Rules thereunder and Coconut oil has been allowed to be used in the manufacture of vanaspati.

(e) There have been no imports of coconut from Colombo and Phillipines during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto May, 2000).

(f) In a span of six months the Government has already raised the duty on edible oils twice—first upward revision on 30th December, 1999 and the second upward revision on 12th June, 2000. The duty on Crude edible oil, now is 27.5% (basic + surcharge) while duty on refined oil is 44.04% (basic + surcharge + SAD). For other oils not specified for example, coconut oil, the total duty is 50.8% (basic + SAD).

Statement

Month End Wholesale Prices of Copra

(Rs. per quintal)

Centre	Variety	Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annul. Avg.
Kerala Cochin	Milpass	1996	2795	2940	2600	2575	2550	2545	2640	2610	2920	3380	3865	NA	2856
		1997	4215	4045	3190	3445	2960	3285	3215	3250	3210	3310	3450	3510	3424
		1998	3190	2965	2725	2725	2570	2855	2685	2800	2900	3220	NA	NA	2864
		1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3380	3550	3585	3855	3805	3697	3645
		2000	3090	2880	2430	2475	2370	2295							
Kozhikode	Dillpass	1996	2850	2850	2700	2550	2650	2700	2750	2900	3500	3500	3850	4450	3104
		1997	4700	4300	3350	3700	3400	3300	3500	3400	3350	3500	3900	3700	3675
		1998	3400	3300	2900	3000	2800	2950	2850	3000	3200	3300	3450	3600	3146
		1999	3500	3600	3850	3300	3600	3600	3800	4150	4000	4150	4100	3850	3833
		2000	3400	3100	2900	2700	2700	2150							
Kerala Alleppey	Milling	1996	2840	2820	2620	2560	2550	2600	2620	2840	3280	3350	4020	4370	3056
		1997	4400	4260	3430	3550	3120	3550	3350	3280	3300	3250	3980	3900	3614
		1998	3600	2880	2820	3050	2760	3150	3000	3050	3325	3500	3400	3600	3178
		1999	3550	3550	3850	3960	3740	3825	3900	4100	4150	4450	4500	3950	3960
		2000	3350	3150	2750	2800	2500	2300							
Quilon		1996	NA	NA	NA	2600	2530	2620	2615	2900	3400	3420	4000	4400	3165
		1997	4400	4200	3320	3500	3050	3300	3330	3360	3350	3450	3750	3720	3561
		1998	3350	2850	2800	2620	2900	2810	2950	2975	3200	3200	3230	3550	3036
		1999	3500	3500	3700	3800	3450	3600	3700	4050	3900	4150	4050	3840	3770
		2000	3000	3000	2700	2650	2350	2150							
Kernataka Aresekere	Ball	1996	3100	2950	2950	2875	2900	2875	2850	3010	4150	4100	4500	4600	3405
		1997	4740	5100	4200	4600	5000	5050	5300	5500	5400	5020	5100	5300	5026
		1998	5550	5000	5000	NA	4450	4200	4150	3875	NA	3850	NA	4000	4453
		1999	4250	4000	4100	3850	3750	3650	3550	3650	3575	4300	4500	4500	3973
		2000	4200	4100	3800	4000	3700	3600							

RAJYA SABHA

[10 August, 2000]