

of ball copra (FAQ) at Rs. 3500/-per quintal for 2000 season. Since the market prices of milling copra have remained subdued during the current season, NAFED, a central nodal agency commenced price support operations and have procured a total quantity of 156,597 tonnes of milling copra as on date. Further procurement is still in progress.

(e) and (f) At present the prices of ball copra in Karnataka are ruling above MSP level and market intervention will be carried out if market prices touch MSP.

Use of uncertified hybrid cotton seeds

1928. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in north India cotton crops have suffered due to use of uncertified hybrid cotton seeds procured through the private agencies as there was acute shortage of hybrid seeds with Government agencies;

(b) if so, why the sufficient quantities of hybrid seeds were not available with Government agencies; and

(c) who is responsible for this situation and what steps Government are taking to avoid recurrence of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No complaint relating to loss of cotton crop due to use of uncertified hybrid cotton seeds has been received by the Government nor has any information on shortage of cotton seed been received by Government of India.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Proper Financing of Kharif and Rabi Loan to the Farmers of NE States

1929. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Kharif and Rabi loan to the farmers of the North East States are not properly financed for more production in this region; and

(b) if so, the measures taken-up by Government for the farmers to meet the food sufficiency production in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of inadequate flow of production credit in the North-Eastern Region (NER). Various measures taken by NABARD for improving the flow of production credit in the NER are as under:

- Minimum recovery norms for sanction of short-term credit limit have been relaxed.
- Norms in the discipline of Minimum Involvement of Internal Lendable resources of the banks for availing refinance for Short-Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) have been relaxed.
- Cooperative Banks operating in NER are charged interest at minimum rate i.e. 5.5% irrespective of their level of dependence on Short Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) refinance.
- Kisan Credit Card Scheme aimed at providing adequate and timely production credit support to the farmers from banking system has been launched.

MSP of Copra

1930. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to declare the MSP of Copra during the 2001 season;

(b) if so, it will be done during the month of December itself;