

Central Government from the farmers of Kuttanad in Kerala to waive their debts to Kerala Land Development Corporation and to stop all revenue recovery measures. The memorandum was referred to the Government of Kerala who have ordered that in all cases where the cost of land development works exceeded Rs. 5000/- per hectare, the excess would be fully subsidised by the State Government.

Price of Chillies

4121. SHRI V. SOBHANADRESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the average price of chillies per quintal during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) the reasons for steep fall in price of chillies in the current season;

(c) whether Government propose to fix remunerative prices for chillies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND

COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Average wholesale Price Index Numbers of Chillies in India for the years 1982-83 to 1986-87 (latest available) are shown in the statement given below. The important reasons for the fall in prices of Chillies during the current season are : (i) An 11.3% increase in the production of dry chillies in 1984-85, marketed in 1985-86 as compared to previous year. Also, All India Production of Chillies during 1985-86 being marketed in the current season, is anticipated at 708.9 thousand tonnes i.e. registering an increase of about 12.4% as compared to previous years production of 630.5 thousand tonnes; and

(ii) A fall in the export demand of chillies. The total exports during 1985-86 is only 1241 tonnes as against 8227 tonnes during the previous year (reported by Spices Export Development Council).

(c) and (d). Government is not considering any proposal to fix support prices for chillies. Currently, the policy of the Government is to fix procurement/minimum support prices in respect of major agricultural commodities only.

Statement
All India Monthly Wholesale Price Index Numbers of Chillies (Base 1970-71 = 100)

| Year | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | Average (July-June) |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------|
| 1982-83 | 194.3 | 196.0 | 191.4 | 181.3 | 177.8 | 157.7 | 137.4 | 124.9 | 119.0 | 118.9 | 115.4 | 114.6 | 152.4 |
| 1983-84 | 120.4 | 113.6 | 107.6 | 114.6 | 134.6 | 126.0 | 118.3 | 128.2 | 149.9 | 183.5 | 187.2 | 227.0 | 142.6 |
| 1984-85 | 261.6 | 283.0 | 282.3 | 326.6 | 345.8 | 370.2 | 334.0 | 273.2 | 267.0 | 283.7 | 290.9 | 308.4 | 302.3 |
| 1985-86 | 315.8 | 315.4 | 297.9 | 287.0 | 246.1 | 236.9 | 205.0 | 192.0 | 175.5 | 177.2 | 163.5 | 143.4 | 229.6 |
| 1986-87 | 139.4 | 132.5 | 133.4 | 145.5 (18/10) | | | | | | | | | |

Note: The monthly Wholesale Price Index Numbers w. e. f. August, 1986 are provisional.