

also represented to Government to take steps to increase the price of their produce.

Government have decided to fix the support price for coconut (copra) on a regular basis as in the case of major agricultural commodities. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is already looking into the matter.

Import of Oilseeds and Maize

1437. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import oilseeds and maize and

(b) if so, the quantity to be imported and the names of the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) It is proposed that 0.5 million tonnes of oilseeds be imported on aid basis only and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) would be the canalising agency. It is also proposed that maize be imported upto 10 lakh tonnes through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), under counter trade arrangements, aid etc.

(b) The actual import, quantum, variety, type would depend upon the source, availability etc. of aid for oilseeds and maize. The import of maize, source of import etc. will also depend upon the necessary counter trade arrangement being considered by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED).

UNICEF Offer to Use Drilling Rigs in Tribal Areas

1438. SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South-East Asia office of UNICEF has offered to provide drilling rigs in the hill and tribal areas in the next

year to meet the acute drinking water shortage in those areas; and

(b) whether any agreement has been reached in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) and (b). No specific agreement has been reached between UNICEF and the Government of India for supply of drilling rigs to Hill and tribal Areas. However, under the Country Programme of Cooperation between Government of India and UNICEF (1985-89), UNICEF has been providing various types of drilling rigs suitable for different terrains.

Price Support for Spices

1439. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a permanent price support mechanism for the different spices grown in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other specific measures proposed to be taken to save the growers and spices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prices of major spices are monitored on a continuous basis. Cooperative marketing organisations undertake marketing operations for selling in domestic markets and for exports. These operations help in assuring remunerative prices to the growers.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Sir, regarding the Adjournment