

and ultimate unit) and in each cluster all the holdings are stratified into five size classes and two holdings are then randomly selected from each size class. The estimated costs at different holding levels in each cluster are weighted in proportion to the area under the crop of all the holdings (selected as well as others) in the respective holding classes to the total area under the crop in the cluster as a whole so as to obtain the estimates of costs of cultivation per hectare at the cluster level. Estimates of yield and value of the main product and the by-product per hectare are similarly obtained. Simple averages of these cluster-level estimates are taken to generate estimates at the zonal and State levels.

Prices of commercial crops

4778. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) is it not a fact that there is steady and progressive decline in the price of important agricultural produces like coconut and cocoa in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline in each case;

(c) the steps taken by Government of India to avoid the decline in prices;

(d) whether Government of India have demanded any action in this regard; and

(e) if so, give details of the demand and the steps taken by the Central Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The prices of coconut have been fluctuating with a declining trend during the current year. The prices of cocoa also have registered a decline.

(b) The prices of coconut have shown a downward trend because of easy supply position. The prices of

cocoa have declined as a result of fall in international prices of this commodity and increase in its production.

(c) to (e). There has been a demand by the Kerala Government to put a ban on the import of copra and coconut oil or increase import duty to serve as an effective deterrent action against imports. They have also demanded to put a ban on the import of cocoa and fix minimum support price.

Import of copra, coconut oil, cocoa bean and powder are currently canalised through State Trading Corporation in order to regulate the import of these items having regard to domestic production and demand. As regards copra and coconut oil, S.T.C. has not made any imports nor does it have a proposal to make any imports of these items. However, limited imports of these items are permitted for export production under the import policy for registered exporters. As regards cocoa, the S.T.C. did not make any imports of cocoa bean and powder during 1980-81. For 1981-82 import of a small quantity of cocoa beans for blending purposes has been allowed to help current operations of the industry. Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture are keeping the price situation for cocoa under review in consultation with the Government of Kerala.

Work on Rajasthan Canal

4779. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL:

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the Rajasthan Canal, which is the biggest Irrigation Project of the world stands still;