

but also slightly elevate it to the benefit of the grower during the peak season.

2. The coconut oil may not be treated as an edible oil because only 25 to 33% of it is used for edible purposes and the rest of it is used for the non-edible purposes. Because of this, credit facilities should be liberalised to the maximum extent possible.
3. If the price of oil falls below the minimum level, Government may initiate price support measures.
4. The possibility of restricting imports of copra may be examined and restricted only to the lean season.
5. The imports of mutton tallow may neither be increased nor decreased.
6. The imports of edible oil may also continue as before.
7. There should be adequate provision of wagon for the movement of copra and coconut oil.

II. Long-term recommendations.

1. There is need for controlling the root wilt disease to increase the productivity.
2. It is also necessary to examine whether inter-cropping of coconut with arecanut trees, pepper vines, tapioca, etc. is desirable or not.
3. Only a fraction of the total area under coconut is irrigated and this is a factor limiting the use of organic manures and chemical fertilisers. It may be necessary that more common wells and tube-wells should be provided for extending irrigation.
4. Those marketing societies having expellers should have adequate mechanical driers.
5. There is need for periodical fumigation as copra is found to be infested due to atmospheric changes.
6. The copra milling industry should be modernised.

Purchase of Fertiliser from East European Countries

1188. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the mode of purchase of fertilisers from

East European countries and countries other than the Eastern Block countries;

(b) the total quantities of fertilizers which the East European countries had committed to supply this year under the Annual Trade Plan and how do they compare with the quantities actually supplied; and

(c) whether as a result of short supply of fertilisers by the East European countries, Government had to make rush purchases from other sources thereby paying very high prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) Fertilisers are purchased from the following East European countries viz. Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, U. S. S. R. and German Democratic Republic against specific provisions in the Trade Plan agreements concluded with the Governments of these countries. The purchases are negotiated and contracts are entered into by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation on behalf of this Ministry.

(b) Two statements are laid on the Table of the House to show the supply situation against the Trade Plans and contracts of 1971 and 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3304/72]. It will appear therefrom that by and large, the quantities actually contracted for supplies have been smaller than in the Trade Plan and that there have been generally delays in the delivery of fertilisers within the agreed period.

(c) As against 7.5 lakh tonnes of urea expected by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to be available from the East European countries for use in Kharif, 1972 and Rabi 1972-73, only about 1.00 lakh tonnes of urea are likely to arrive. Only a part of this shortfall of 6.5 lakh tonnes of urea could be made up through purchases from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Japan. The prices paid for these purchases were no doubt not higher than those paid to Poland and Russia, but they had to be paid in 'free foreign exchange'. However, Romania and Bulgaria from whom fertiliser supplies were expected in 1972, have been asking for prices higher than those paid to suppliers in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Japan.