

Government announces the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of copra based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and the views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries. It is ensured that the MSP covered the cost of production and also provides a margin of profit to give incentive to the farmers for investment in agriculture and adoption of improved technology. The MSP for ball copra was fixed at Rs. 2925 per quintal and for milling copra at Rs. 2700 per qtl. for the 1997 season.

The wholesale prices of copra in 1997 ranged between Rs. 2960-4215 per quintal at Cochin market and Rs. 3300-4700 per quintal at Kozhikode market of Kerala. This shows that the market prices of copra in Kerala ruled above the MSP for 1997.

Import of coconut oil is canalised. During 1995-96 and 1996-97, imports of coconut oil was only 0.37% and 0.42% respectively of total imports of edible oils. As the import of copra is negligible, it may not have much impact on the prices.

Processing of Coconut

130. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to the Union Government seeking assistance for diversification and processing of coconut costing Rs. 43.20;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken on the said scheme;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which a decision on the said proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries have not received any such proposal from Kerala Govt. for coconut processing. However, such a proposal was received by Ministry of Agriculture from Govt. of Kerala who have advised the Govt. of Kerala to submit a revised proposal to Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The revised proposal is under preparation by KERAFFD.

Treaty of Peace and Friendship

131. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nepal has since forwarded to India specific proposals for revising the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Milk

132. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production of milk in the country and that of dairy farms under the National Dairy Research Institute during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of milk in the dairy farms of the National Dairy Research Institute has decreased during the above period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken/ scheme formulated for increasing the production of milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The annual production of milk in the country and that of the dairy farms under the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, during the last three years is given below :

Milk Production

Year	All India (000 M.T.)	N.D.R.I Karnal (M.T)
1995-96	66150 (Prov.)	1429
1996-97	68485 (Prov.)	1484
1997-98	72852 (Prov.)	1479

(b) There is a marginal fluctuation in milk yield during the last three years of the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. There was an increase of milk yield in the year 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96 whereas a marginal decline in the year 1997-98.

(c) The reason for marginal variation in milk production might be due to weather condition particularly severe cold, prolonged cloudy weather and frequent rains in winter of 1997-98. For increasing the production of milk in the country various central/centrally sponsored schemes such as Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme, National Bull Production Programme,

Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Dev., Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases & Integrated Dairy Development Projects for Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas etc. are being implemented.

Terrorist Outfits

133. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the US Administration has levelled charges against Pakistan of supporting the various militant organisations including the Harkat-UI-Ansar based in Pakistan and which are active in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereon;

(c) whether as per the report on patterns of global terrorism, various groups involved in the civil war in Afganistan have also been providing facilities of training camps to these militants in the areas occupied by them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to combat these terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The US State Department has designated Pakistan based organisation Harkat-UI-Ansar as a terrorist organisation under US law.

(b) Despite all available evidence and acknowledgement to this effect in the US State Department's report on terrorism "Patterns of Global Terrorism, 1996", Government of Pakistan continue to maintain that the Harkat-UI-Ansar is not operating from its territory.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government continues to maintain its vigil and is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security.

Irrigation Projects of Bihar

134. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of irrigation projects in Bihar on which work has been stopped;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to complete these pending irrigation projects; and

(d) the progress made so far in the execution of Konar irrigation project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Irrigation projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments out of their own resources. A statement of ongoing irrigation projects of Bihar indicating their estimated cost, expenditure upto March '92, anticipated expenditure during the VIIIth Plan and the total anticipated expenditure upto the end of VIIIth Plan is enclosed. A Central loan Assistance of Rs. 13.5 Cr. in 1996-97 to three projects and Rs. 14.04 Cr. in 1997-98 to ten projects was released by the Central Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to Government of Bihar.

(d) The latest estimated cost of Konar Irrigation project is Rs. 312.49 Cr. out of which an expenditure of about Rs. 89.48 Cr. has been incurred by the State Government upto March 1997.

Statement

Sl. No.	Project Name	Latest estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Expenditure upto March 1992 (Rs. in crores)	Anticipated Expenditure during VIII Plan (Rs. in crores)	total Anticipated Expenditure upto end of VIII Plan (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Major					
1.	Ajoy Barrage	199.24	67.53	18.87	86.40
2.	Subernrekha	2367.15	561.19	125.00	686.19
3.	Auranga	699.36	14.71	6.52	21.24
4.	Barnar	226.24	29.08	9.19	38.27
5.	Bateshwar Nath Pump Ph-I	175.85	17.92	5.76	23.68
6.	Bagman	154.73	35.76	0.74	36.50
7.	Bansagar	118.09	35.76	0.00	35.76
8.	Durgawati	266.97	54.96	17.26	72.22