

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Area Welfare Officers have been appointed for various areas including Government colonies for one term (of two years) viz. 1999 and 2000 from out of the applicants willing to work as such on honorary and voluntary basis. The applications are not invited area-wise. However, a circular inviting applications for certain areas including Government colonies not represented so far has been issued on 25.2.1999 and depending upon the response, Area Welfare Officers for those areas also will be appointed in due course.

#### **Commission for Agricultural Cost and Price**

2161. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission has recommended various programmes and steps for improving the coconut cultivation in Kerala;

(b) the main recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its Report on Price Policy for Copra for 1999 Season has made following price and non-price recommendations:—

- (i) For the 1999 season, the minimum support price for fair average quality be fixed at 3075 per quintal of milling copra and Rs. 3325 per quintal for ball copra.
- (ii) in case announcement of the minimum support prices for copra is delayed beyond December due to unexpected contingencies, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation should be allowed/required to arrange for support purchases from the beginning of the year at the already existing minimum support prices, and that as and when the support price for the season is announced the difference should be reimbursed to those from whom purchases were made before the announcement;
- (iii) the concerned State Governments should take steps to strengthen the system of regulated markets for coconut and copra;
- (iv) sufficient infrastructure be created for enabling primary marketing societies to undertake purchase of raw coconuts directly from the growers. Also, beginning from the 1999 season, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing

Federation of India, which is the nodal agency for the implementation of minimum support prices for copra, should indicate, separately for each state and the islands, the price per nut corresponding to the minimum support prices fixed for the season;

- (v) in order to strengthen the data base required for the formulation of price policy, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) should consider generating advance estimates of coconut production as it does for other crops, and also evaluate the Coconut Development Board estimates of copra production with a view to generating reliable and consistent estimates.

In addition, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics may also examine the feasibility of collecting data on arrivals of copra in selected major markets.

- (vi) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Horticultural Department of the Ministry of Agriculture should jointly strengthen those branches of existing research institutes which are responsible for responding to the occurrence of new pest and diseases;

- (vii) The currently low import duty rate on palmolein be revised upwards as and when world palmolein prices decline so as to ensure that its domestic price does not decline and exert further downward pressure on the domestic prices of edible oils, including coconut oil, and through this on the prices of copra and coconut; and

- (viii) Some definite package of incentives either in the form of tax waivers or temporary subsidies, be granted to industrial units adopting the range of technologies available with the Coconut Development Board for diversified coconut products.

(c) The Government has announced the Minimum Support Price for copra of Fair Average Quality at Rs. 3100 per quintal for Milling Copra and Rs. 3325 per quintal for Ball Copra (Fair Average Quality) for 1999 season as against the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices of Rs. 3075 and Rs. 3325 per quintal for Milling and Ball Copra respectively. State Government/Union Territory administration and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to implement both Price and Non-price recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices on Price Policy for Copra for 1999 season.

#### **Vermiculture**

2162. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that good farm yard manure using Vermiculture is better than chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether ICAR/Agriculture Universities have undertaken any systematic scientific studies and trials on the subject;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether it is likely to be taken up in Bihar specially involving women and weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of usefulness of organic manure (farm yard manure) for improving soil health. However, the use of organic manures alone including vermiculture (compost) is not sufficient to meet nutrient requirement for sustained and required level of enhanced crop productivity.

(b) and (c) Multilocational experiments using "FYM" (farm yard manure) have already been conducted under All India Coordinated Research Projects on "Long-Term Fertilizer Experiment" and "Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Organic Waste" at various state agricultural universities. The State-wise list of the centres is given in the Statement.

However, only sporadic information on usefulness on vermiculture have been reported. Efforts are on to strengthen research on this aspect during the current Five Year Plan period.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the State of Bihar the proven technologies related to use of FYM and compost are being disseminated among farming community involving women and weaker section through state agricultural universities namely Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa; Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

*Statement*

State	Name of the Agricultural University/ICAR Institute	Long Term Fertilizer Experiment	Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of organic waste
1	2	3	4
Andhara Pradesh	APAU, Hyderabad	Yes	
Bihar	BAU, Ranchi	Yes	Yes
Delhi	IARI, New Delhi	Yes	
Gujarat	GAU, Junagarh	Yes	
Himachal Pradesh	HPKVV, Palampur	Yes	Yes
Haryana	HAU, Hissar		Yes
Karnataka	UAS, Bangalore	Yes	Yes
Kerala	KAU, Trichur	Yes	

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	JNKVV, Jabalpur	Yes	Yes
	IGKVV, Raipur	Yes	
Maharashtra	PKV, Akola	Yes	
	MAU, Parbhani	Yes	
	MPAU, Rahuri		Yes
Orissa	OUAT, Bhubaneswar	Yes	
Punjab	PAU, Ludhiana	Yes	
Tamil Nadu	TNAU, Coimbatore	Yes	
Uttar Pradesh	' GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	Yes	
	CSUA&T, Kanpur		Yes
West Bengal	BCKVV, Kalyani		Yes
	CRIJAF, Barrackpore	Yes	

#### **Oustees of Rengali Irrigation Project**

2163. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families who have been displaced due to construction of Rengali Irrigation Project, Orissa.

(b) whether all the oustees of this project have been paid compensation and provided with rehabilitation;

(c) if not, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

#### **MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):**

(a) to (d) A scheme for the rehabilitation of 772 affected families due to construction of Rengali Irrigation Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.96 crores has been formulated by the State Government. An amount of about Rs. 12.85 crores has been incurred on rehabilitation till 31.3.1998. Out of the families entitled for allotment of residential plots, 44 plots have been allotted (upto 31.3.1998).

#### **Bus Services between Calcutta and Dhaka**

2164. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY:  
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: