

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2493
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH AUGUST, 2024

PROCUREMENT OF DRY COCONUT BY NAFED

2493. SHRI SHREYAS M PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that dry coconut growers in Hasan District, particularly in tuluks such as channarayapatna, Arasikere, Holenarasipura, and others, are severely affected by the low rates offered by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED);
- (b) the reasons for NAFED operating only for a limited period, instead of throughout the year, causing hardship to dry coconut growers;
- (c) the number of farmers and quantity of coconut produce affected by these low prices and limited procurement days;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure fair and remunerative prices for dry coconut growers in Hasan District;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to the proposal to direct NAFED to operate throughout the year, i.e., 365 days, to ensure steady income for dry coconut growers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, whether the Government will give any assurance to take immediate steps to address the issues faced by dry coconut growers in Hasan District and ensure their welfare?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (f): Under the present procurement mechanism under Price Support Scheme (PSS), NAFED, as a Central Nodal Agency procures notified oilseeds,

pulses and copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through state designated procuring agencies directly from pre-registered farmers in consultation with the concerned State Government / Union Territory as and when market price of these produce fall below the MSP during the harvesting period, as per prescribed guidelines.

The stock procured under PSS is disposed of in the open market. To avoid recycling, procurement and disposal is not operated simultaneously under the scheme, hence Central Nodal Agencies do not dispose the procured stock during the procurement operation. Further, disposal of procured stock are undertaken within the stipulated period so as not to impact the market price trend for subsequent crop and also to enable freeing up storage space for the next season's crops.

The normal procurement period for oilseeds and pulses under PSS is 90 days, however, considering the perennial nature of copra, the procurement period of copra under PSS has been fixed at six months from its peak arrival period, based on the notification issued by the respective State Govt. / UT on year to year basis.
