

States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Assam	2132.3	1754.4	1931.9
Manipur	50.3	36.5	33.0
Meghalaya	219.2	237.8	238.1
Mizoram	31.8	70.1	45.1
Nagaland	66.9	66.9	107.6
Tripura	306.9	320.9	320.9

\* Production Negligible

#### Development of Coconut

2466. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices has made some recommendations for the development of coconut cultivation;

(b) if so, details of main recommendations; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has not given any specific recommendation for the development/improvement of coconut cultivation as such. However, it has made the following non-price recommendations which may help improve the cultivation of coconut :-

(i) The public agencies like KERAFED be authorised to also undertake commercial purchases of copra at an adequate scale;

(ii) in the case of 'Milling' Copra in Kerala, the period for the purpose of price support operations and open market purchases by the public agencies be specified as January to June when prices of copra generally remain depressed;

(iii) (a) in area where primary cooperatives are not undertaking the marketing of coconut/copra on an adequate scale, coconut growers cooperatives be formed;

(b) efforts be stepped up to equip coconut/copra marketing cooperatives with adequate drying and storage facilities;

(iv) the methodologies being adopted by different coconut growing States for estimation of area and production be re-examined with a view to arriving at the reliable estimates; and

(v) expeditious steps be taken to generate the estimates of cost of production of coconut producing States and make these available to the commission.

(c) The Government has accepted all the recommendations of the CACP referred to above except the recommendation No. (ii) above regarding the period of operation of the MSP in Kerala from January to June of the year. The Government has decided that the period of operation of the minimum support prices may continue or the full year as is existing at present.

#### NCCF Supply to Government Organisations

2467. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF) has been supplying various items to the Government Organisations at much higher rates than the wholesale rates and not indicating the brand names and full specifications of these items on the invoice raised to the purchaser;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to light during the last one year;

(c) whether the action has been taken by the Government thereupon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Excesses by Police on Republic Day

2468. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during the 48th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January, 1997, the police baton charged the viewers at Raj Path especially in the general enclosures near the India Gate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the police snatched cigarette packets and pens from the viewers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Delhi Police did not use any force against the viewers on 26th January, 1997 either at Rajpath or any other enclosure.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, match-boxes and lighters were not allowed inside the enclosures for the reasons of general security.