

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2800
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
COCONUT PRICES
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the price of coconut has come down drastically in Karnataka recently;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to help the coconut growers in the coconut-growing States?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The price data given below show a fluctuating decline in month-end wholesale prices of coconut in important markets in Karnataka:

| | | Rs per unit | | Dates | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Variety | Market in Unit | Jan/ | Aprl/ | Augst/ | Dec/ | Aprl/ | Augst/ |
| of coconut | Karnataka | 2006 | 2006 | 2006 | 2006 | 2007 | 2007 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Rashi | Ariskere | 1000 | 4000 | 4000 | 4500 | 4000 | 4000 | 4000 |
| | nuts | | | | | | | |
| Sort- I | Manglore | 1000 | 7500 | 7250 | 7150 | 7650 | 7100 | 6600 |
| | nuts | | | | | | | |
| Sort-II | Mangalore | 1000 | 5500 | 5250 | 5150 | 5650 | 5100 | 4600 |
| | nuts | | | | | | | |

Relative shortage in supply due to damage to coconut crops in 2004 and 2005 seasons on account of diseases has been followed by a good harvest in 2006 season. The resultant surge in market arrivals of coconut during the peak period (i.e. June- September 2007) in the current marketing season in Karnataka which has been reflected in fall in prices.

(c): The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for important crops including coconut / copra on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and procures the crops through designated Government agencies. The MSP fixed for Milling and Ball copra for the year 2007-08 are Rs.3620.00 per quintal and Rs. 3870.00 per quintal respectively.

Karnataka produces mainly Ball copra. In view of the depressing price behaviour in the market, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd (NAFED) has intervened in the markets and procured 19 thousand MTs of Ball copyra up to April, 2007.