

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not going to insist on that. Let Mr. Bhajan Lal make the statement. Then I will call you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what I am going to tell is in the interest of coconut growers in the country, please listen to me. (Interruptions)

It seems that you have become anti-farmer. What we are going to take up is in the interest of farmers.

14.56 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE FOR COPRA FOR 1989 SEASON

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): In order to protect the interests of the coconut growers, copra has been brought under the ambit of the support price policy. Accordingly, on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the Government have fixed, for the first time, a minimum support price of copra of fair average quality at Rs. 1500 per quintal for the 1989 season.

2. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has been designated as the central nodal agency to undertake purchases of copra for 1989 season at the minimum support price, as and when needed, in collaboration with State Cooperative Marketing Agencies or the

agencies designated by the State Governments. The losses, if any, incurred on purchase and sale operations will be fully reimbursed to NAFED by the Central Government.

3. I am confident that the minimum support price announced by the Government will safeguard the interests of the coconut growers.

[English]

(interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): We congratulate the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister for this announcement... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I call Mr. Rao.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing them. I have not permitted them to speak.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call you afterwards. After Mr. Rao's point of order, I will call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have to cooperate with me. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)