

Procurement of Copra

8148. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies engaged in the procurement of copra on behalf of NAFED;

(b) the quantity of copra procured so far in this year;

(c) the amount earmarked for procurement of copra by NAFED this year;

(d) whether NAFED had made any profit during the earlier operations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) During 1990 Copra Marketing season, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has been appointed as Central Nodal Agency to make purchases of copra on behalf of the Central Government. The following agencies have been nominated by the State Government to make purchases on behalf of NAFED:

1. Kerala: (i) Kerala State Coconut Growers Federation Ltd., Trivandrum (ii) Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Cochin.
2. Karnataka: (iii) Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Bangalore.
3. Lakshadweep: (iv) Lakshadweep Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Calicut.
4. Andaman & Nicobar Islands: (v)

Andaman & Nicobar Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Port Blair.

(b) A quantity of 9435 MTs of Copra Upto 4.5.1990 has been purchased by NAFED.

(c) Procurement of copra under the scheme will be continued at the declared support price so long as stocks are offered and as such no target is earmarked for it.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Hindi Training Institute in Cochin

8149. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to set up a Hindi Training Institute in Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to set up a sub-centre of the Central Hindi Training Institute at Cochin.

Posts of High Commissioners/Ambassadors Lying Vacant

8150. SHRIRAMESHCHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of posts of High Commissioner and Ambassadors lying vacant at present?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): A total of 6 posts of High Commissioner/Ambassadors