

Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1116
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2022

FALLING COCONUT PRICES

1116. SHRI M K RAGHAVAN

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has observed that the coconut farmers of Kerala are facing severe crisis due to falling coconut prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to introduce any scheme for ensuring minimum price for coconut farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any steps are being taken to promote usage of coconut oil for cooking purposes considering the huge edible oil imports and If so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) As per the information received from Coconut Development Board (CDB), the prices of coconut and major commercial products of coconut viz. copra, coconut oil and desiccated coconut have witnessed a decreasing trend during the period from January 2021 to October 2022. However, from the month of November 2022 the prices of those products have shown signs of improvement.

As per the market data collected by the CDB Market Intelligence, it is observed that market prices have started to increase since November 2022 and the trend is continuing in December 2022. The average price of milling copra in Kerala

has increased from Rs. 7626/- per quintal recorded in October 2022 to Rs. 8617/- in November 2022 and Rs. 9200/- in December 2022 (as on 08th December, 2022). The prices are expected to increase further in the succeeding months.

(c) & (d) Under the Price Support scheme (PSS), the Central Government declares Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milling and ball copra every year before the commencement of the production season and identifies National level nodal agencies with a task of procuring copra at MSP rate if the prices are ruling below MSP. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited and National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India Limited are central nodal agencies for MSP procurement of coconut under the Price Support Scheme.

(e) The Government of India through CDB has been taking continued efforts for promoting coconut oil not only as cooking oil but also as a major ingredient in ayurvedic medicinal formulations, cosmetic and nutraceutical sectors. Generic advertisements are released for promotion of coconut oil. Clinical studies for conclusively establishing the health benefits of coconut oil are also undertaken by the Board in collaboration with research institutions.
