

**Title:** Need to increase minimum support price for Copra.

SHRIT. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister towards the representation from Kerala Government to fix minimum support price for Copra during 2000 season.

Kerala Government suggested Rs.4,300 per quintal for Ball Copra and Rs.4,100 for Milling Copra. The cost of production of Copra during the season 2000 is nearly five per cent higher than that of the previous year 1999. This includes wages and cost of fertilizers and copra making expenses.

According to estimates, the cost of production per nut comes to nearly Rs.5.38. To these are added the cost of making copra to arrive at Rs.4,100 per quintal. Therefore, it is recommended that the minimum support price for milling copra be fixed at Rs.4,100 per quintal for the 2000 season. To these may be added the cost of storage and handling in respect of ball copra and the minimum support price for ball copra may thus be fixed at Rs.4,300 per quintal. Moreover, the coconut oil prices in the State has increased by nearly 23 per cent during 1999 as compared to the previous year indicating an overall increase in the demand for coconut oil in the market. However, in view of the higher cost of production of coconut in Kerala especially due to higher wages and the widespread attack of mites during the current year, the State Government is of the opinion that a higher minimum support price be given for Kerala in December being the beginning of the season in Kerala.