

ban the sale of agricultural land for construction of farm houses and the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Employment of Unemployed Youth's for Census Work

10399. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to engage unemployed youths for census work, 1990-91 instead of teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to Section 4(2) of the Census Act, 1948, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations appoint persons to take the Census. Being a controlled and time bound operation, Government/Local body staff like primary school teachers, clerks and revenue field officials are only temporarily appointed for census work. There is, therefore, no proposal to engage unemployed youths for the 1991 Census.

Forward Market in Copra Trade

10400. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

permit forward market in Copra to help coconut industry;

(b) whether Government have received representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Department of Civil Supplies in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies have received a representation from the Alleppey Oil Millers' and Merchants' Association, Kerala.

(c) The Government of India does not intend to permit forward trading in Copra for the present. The reasons are:

(i) The numerous varieties of copra differ in oil content, moisture, colour, etc. It would therefore be difficult to fix 'on' or 'off' allowances for superior and inferior varieties of Copra in relation to the basis variety of a futures contract.

(ii) The current market prices of Copra in Cochin are around Rs. 1530-1550 per quintal. In view of the support price of Rs. 1600 declared by the Government of India, if any forward trade is permitted, it will be subject to the minimum price of Rs. 1600/- quintal. The current price levels will therefore to generate sufficient buyers in the futures market for copra, at present.