

## Farmers seek urgent steps for paddy procurement

Special Correspondent.

*Steering committee of ryots' body to meet Kiran today*

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*Farmers' neglect attributed to lack of unity among them in fighting for their cause*

*Lok Satta Party president wants the government to allow rice and wheat exports*

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HYDERABAD: A meeting of the Federation of Independent Farmers Organisations here on Monday urged steps by the government to step up procurement of rice and other foodgrains and come to the rescue of farmers.

Reeling out figures, the speakers said that while the government had procured only one lakh tonnes of paddy, millers had procured a whopping 24 million tonnes this year. As the production was estimated at 76 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, it still left a lot to be bought, they said. Over two dozen representatives of farmers' organisations participated in the meeting. They said paddy farmers were being denied the minimum support price for the last two seasons – kharif last year and rabi too.

Those who spoke included R. Chengal Reddy, Y. Nagendranath, A. Prabhakar Reddy, Balarami Reddy and S.P. Shankar Reddy.

A steering committee with 13 office-bearers and members was formed and it would to meet the Chief Minister on Tuesday, seeking that he lead a delegation of MPs to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and focus the plight of farmers and demand steps to improve their lot.

Addressing the gathering, Lok Satta Party president Jayaprakash Narayan said successive governments had ignored the farmers' also because of the lack of unity among their organisations in fighting for their common cause of getting higher incomes for their produce.

He said a long-term solution to the crisis in the agrarian sector, manifested by the declining rural per capital income, lay in liberalisation from the licence-permit-quota raj and pending such a liberalisation, the governments at the Centre and State could take many steps to help the farmers. As an immediate step, he made out a case for rice and wheat exports to be allowed, pointing out that the FCI had 44.2 million tonnes of rice and wheat in its godowns against the buffer stock norm of 21.2 tonnes in April this year.

**Date:**10/05/2011 **URL:** <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/10/stories/2011051062040600.htm>

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### **SBI agri-commercial branch inaugurated**

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: State Bank of India on Monday opened a specialised agri-commercial branch here. It will provide high value loans for agriculture and allied activities.

It will provide guidance and technical support to large borrowers in the agriculture sector and is equipped to process, assess and sanction high value farm proposals with a minimum ticket size of Rs.25 lakh.

It will also process proposals related to agriculture-based and agro-industrial activities.

**Date:**10/05/2011 **URL:** <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/10/stories/2011051053670500.htm>

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### **Farmers demand better price for sugarcane**

Special Correspondent

*They stage demonstration in front of Deputy Commissioner's office in Gulbarga*

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*'District administration should help the farmers' Farmers urge factories to give sugar as bonus*

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GULBARGA: Sugarcane growers took out a procession and staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office demanding a higher price for sugarcane supplied to the three sugar factories in the district, here on Monday.

The farmers led by Jai Karnataka Rakshana Vedike said the three sugar factories — NSL company-run Aland Cooperative Sugar Factory at Bhusnur in Aland taluk, Ugar Sugar Factory near Malli in Jewargi taluk in Gulbarga district, and Renuka Sugar Factory at Havalga in Afzalpur taluk in Gulbarga district — paid Rs. 1,700 for a tonne of sugarcane supplied by the farmers. However, factories run by the same companies in other parts of the State were paying higher rates, the farmers alleged. NSL company, which was running a sugar factory in Mandya, paid Rs. 1,800 for a tonne of sugarcane and also provided half kg of sugar per tonne of the sugarcane supplied as bonus.

Addressing the farmers, Arunkumar Patil, president of Jai Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, said the district administration should immediately intervene and protect the interests of the farmers by issuing directions to the sugar factories to increase the price of sugarcane and distribute sugar as bonus to the farmers.

Mr. Patil alleged that although sugarcane was available in abundance in the district, the sugar factories continued to import sugarcane from neighbouring Maharashtra and districts such as Bijapur and Yadgir. The district administration should ask the sugar factories to crush all the available sugarcane in the district before importing sugarcane from elsewhere, they said.

## Farmers' agitation

The ongoing farmers' agitation in Uttar Pradesh over land acquisition is sad but a contentious issue in India ("Farmers' agitation spreads to Agra, Aligarh," May 9). Since land acquisition for development is inescapable, it must be ensured that there is just and adequate compensation for and proper rehabilitation of the deprived farmers. Unfortunately, most State governments seem to follow archaic rules and procedures by offering a very low amount compared to the market value of land, which only results in anger. The Central government should immediately call all the Chief Ministers, set up a national board to fix the value of the land acquired across India and decide the level of compensation to be disbursed. Otherwise, we will continue to read reports like this.

M.K.B. Nambiar,

Mahe

The agitation could have been averted had the issue not been politicised. Land acquisition is a matter between the State government and farmers. Be that as it may, in this predominantly agricultural country, the state must bear in mind that industrialisation cannot be at the expense of farmers' welfare.

S. Ramakrishnasayee,

Ranipet

Fair compensation must go beyond monetary terms. Land acquisition by the government, whatever the purpose, entails forcible dispossession of farm lands and a loss of traditional livelihoods. For a farmer, finding alternative vocations or investing the money poses challenges in the form of having to take pragmatic decisions. He ends up spending the money, getting swindled or burning his fingers by investing in unviable businesses. The 'take-the-money-and-get-lost' approach is neither just nor humane. Dispossessed farmers should have the right to claim a share from the future profits of the project.

V.N. Mukundarajan,

Thiruvananthapuram

The fact that lives have been lost in the farmers' agitation is disturbing. Are we living in British India when popular protests were controlled with brute force? Why is the government so rigid in handling internal problems, whether it is compensation for farmers or banning the use of endosulfan?

B. Sathyanarayanan, Chennai.

Date: 10/05/2011 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/10/stories/2011051059760200.htm>

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## **Cooperatives procure wheat, gram worth Rs.115 crore**

Special Correspondent

JAIPUR: Cooperative institutions in Rajasthan have procured wheat and gram worth Rs.115 crore at minimum support prices announced by the Union Government and started commercial purchase of cumin and mustard for giving remunerative prices to farmers in the State.

According to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies here, P. S. Mehra, farmers have started getting comparatively higher prices for their produce even from private buyers after the Rajasthan State Cooperative Marketing Federation (RAJFED) began the procurement. The Tilam Sangh is the other official agency engaged in procurement.

Mr. Mehra said the RAJFED had so far procured 376 quintals of cumin, 35,051 sacks of mustard and 11,849 sacks of gram in the State. Besides, 50,030 quintals of barley valued at Rs.3.47 crore was purchased through private agencies.

RAJFED has established 54 procurement centres across the State for wheat and 122 for gram, while Tilam Sangh has established 78 centres for wheat. The arrival of mustard at the procurement centres was comparatively low during the past fortnight because of higher

prices offered to farmers in the open market.

The Union Government has announced minimum support price of Rs.1,850 per quintal for mustard, which is Rs.20 higher than that of the previous year. The MSP for gram has been increased by Rs.340 per quintal and announced at Rs.2,100 per quintal.

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**hindustantimes**



**Press Trust Of India**

Mumbai, May 09, 2011

First Published: 23:32 IST(9/5/2011)

Last Updated: 23:33 IST(9/5/2011)

### **India to grow at 8% in 2011: IMF**

The IMF on Monday again revised downwards the country's growth outlook for 2011 to around 8% on the back of high inflation and overall global economic outlook, clouded by rising commodity prices led by oil.

"As new downside risks have emerged across the globe, and particularly in Asia Pacific economies with many of them overheating, we revise downwards our growth for the region and also for India, where we see the growth momentum decelerating this fiscal to around 8%," said IMF director, Asia Pacific department, Anoop Singh.

The multilateral agency had earlier also moderated the country growth projection to 8.2% from the 8.4%.

"In 2011, the pace and composition of growth will continue to show notable differences across Asia. China and India are expected to lead the rest of the region with China growing by 9.5% and India by around 8%," Singh said.

He was talking to the media after presenting its latest report on the Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific: Managing the Next Phase of Growth to the Reserve Bank officials here. Earlier, international financial lender ADB had also revised its growth projection for India to 8.2% for this calendar year from earlier estimate of 8.7%, on account of high prices. In the annual monetary policy announced on May 3, the Reserve Bank had said the country's economy would grow to around 8% while the Budget pegged growth at 9% over even more.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/695484.aspx>

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Tuesday, May 10**

Max Min

41.6° | 27.1°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 75%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:45

Sunset: 18:25

Barometer: 1004.0

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

**Wednesday, May 11**

Max Min

38° | 29°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday

**May 12**



38° | 28°

Partly Cloudy

Friday

**May 13**



39° | 29°

Rainy

Saturday

**May 14**



39° | 29°

Rainy

Sunday

**May 15**



39° | 29°

Partly Cloudy

Monday

**May 16**



38° | 29°

Sunny

## **Tappal saga repeats, farmers demand better compensation**

May 10, 2011 11:07:12 AM

**Biswajeet Banerjee | Lucknow**

The policy, which State Government introduced to douse the 'Tappal flame' has singed the pride of Chief Minister Mayawati almost eight months later as farmers, not far from Tappal in Aligarh, are again up in arms demanding a better compensation of their land acquired for developing amenities across the 165 km-long Yamuna Expressway. The policy was announced on September 3, 2010 after farmers of Aligarh and Agra brought life to a standstill in western Uttar Pradesh when four persons were killed in a police firing in Tappal village on August 15.

The new policy talked about annuity of Rs 20,000 per acre for 33 years besides getting a yearly increment of Rs 600. As per the policy, the farmers could have also availed a one-time-settlement of Rs 2.40 lakh per acre instead of the annuity. The farmers would also get Rs 1.85 lakh as one time wage for their labour of five years.

"If farmers of Tappal can get benefit under this policy, why their counterparts in Bhatta and Parsaul villages are deprived of this scheme. They should not be at loss only because they had entered into an agreement with the State Government just a month before Tappal agitation started," Manohar Kanoria, a farmer leader told The Pioneer from undisclosed location in western Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

He said the demands of the farmers from Bhatta and Parsaul villages were simple—give them the compensation as per the new rehabilitation policy announced by the State Government.



“We expect the Government to implement its own policy which, it claims, is the best in the country,” he said before hanging up.

As per the new policy which has been implemented by the State Government, besides the annuity, the farmers will be eligible for shares worth 25 per cent of their land cost if a private company acquires the land. Besides, farmers will get reservation of 17.5 per cent in housing schemes in the area while seven per cent of the acquired land would be kept for housing schemes where the farmers could get a minimum of 120 sq metre plot to construct their dwellings or to set up their business establishment. When asked, Cabinet Secretary Shashank Shekhar Singh said new rehabilitation policy in force was meant only for the fresh acquisition of land by Government for development projects. “This policy is one of the best, even better than that of Haryana,” he said.

### **Cong alleges irregularities in wheat procurement**

May 10, 2011 11:09:25 AM

**Staff Reporter | Bhopal**

State Congress president and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Kantilal Bhuria alleged irregularities in the procurement of wheat which is resulting in the loss for the farmers and the State Government has been a mute spectators as middlemen are indulged in profit taking at the cost of farmers.

Bhuria said that at the mandis and Government’s procurement centres the farmers are being taken for a ride as the intermediaries are exploiting the situation, wherein the rights of the sellers are not being protected.

He alleged that the so-called middlemen are taking advantage of the delay in payments to the

farmers as the State Government made the process complicated for the farmers.

Inevitably, the farmer is left with no option but to approach the middlemen who makes a killing in the process thus resulting in huge profiteering and corruption, he added.

The State Congress has sought the intervention of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to check the uncontrolled profiteering at the expense of the farmers. The Union Minister said that there has been a record production of wheat in the State whereas the necessary procurement facilities are not in place.

Bhuria alleged that the farmers have to wait for days together for selling their produce, in spite of that they are unable to sell their wheat. Bhuria alleged that middle-men then exploit the situation and purchase the same wheat from the farmers at a bare minimum cost. He highlighted a case in Vidisha district where a farmer committed suicide after he was not able to sell his wheat.

Bhuria alleged that only 31 metric tons have been procured in the State where as tons of wheat is lying as dump because of the lack of facilities set up by the State Government to procure the wheat. He said that if the situation continues the wheat would be wasted and the farmers would be bound to suffer.

### **CM directs proper storage of procured wheat**

May 10, 2011 11:09:44 AM

### **Staff Reporter | Bhopal**

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has directed for properly storing the wheat procured on bonus over support price. In this regard an increase of `20 per ton per month has been made as

the storage charge to keep the wheat in private warehouses. The Chief Secretary Avni Vaish is reviewing all processes of wheat procurement on a daily basis. On Sunday also he reviewed the situation.

According to information received from Commissioner Food and Civil Supplies Ajit Kesari, now preparations are being made to store 46 lakh metric tons wheat against the previous target of 35 lakh metric tons.

As per information received, looking into the problem being faced to store the procured wheat, the rate of ` 10 per metric ton per month of the Warehousing Corporation, orders have been issued to increase the rate to `30 per metric ton per month. Proposals from private warehouses have been received to store 40 thousand metric tons.

According to a decision taken in this regard, such covered space even if it is not a licensed warehouse, will be taken on rent at the rate of `30 per metric tone per month, and provided the space is otherwise suitable to store the wheat. The State Government is taking on rent the spaces for safely storing at least 500 metric tons or more wheat. The interested warehouse owners may send proposals to the Managing Director, Warehousing and Logistic Corporation.

Vacant cinema halls, community building, closed factories etc will be used for storing wheat. After receipt of proposal from the owners of such places, the Warehousing Corporation will take necessary action.

# Business Standard

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

**Should cane pricing be formula-based?**

**Kunal Bose / May 10, 2011, 0:22 IST**

Link payments to realisations from sugar and by-products.

By no measure, sugar is as sensitive commodity as pulses and cereals or fruits and vegetables or edible oils are. But as we saw last year and also in the beginning of this year, when raging inflation was sending food prices up every week, the government became inert in taking some long-pending decisions on sugar, irrespective of their possible impact on prices.

For example, had the government removed controls covering the whole gamut of operations starting from raw material cane to finished product sugar to by-products-based industries like alcohol and ethanol, the milling industry would have attracted large local and foreign investment facilitating its capacity expansion, modernisation and most importantly consolidation. It begs the question that the industry will perform significantly better if sugar production and downstream operations are done on a much larger scale than is the case now.

But citing the compulsion of building a consensus among various stakeholders, including the cane growing states, New Delhi avoids taking a decision on decontrol. Yet, one more case of political expediency taking precedence over the crying need for reforms. Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said, "The government is keen to play the role of a facilitator and not that of a regulator" of the sugar industry. This, however, will not be the case as long as the controls remain. Interestingly, Pawar acknowledges that freed from controls, the industry could move into a "faster growth trajectory."

The fact remains that cane growing states have overarching powers over the running of sugar factories in their domain. Some states like Uttar Pradesh are too jealous of the way their writ run on cane price fixing at a big premium over the fair and remunerative price (FRP) declared by the Centre. For example, this season the UP government made sugar mills pay Rs 210 a quintal,

which is Rs 70.88 a quintal more than FRP. Mills in Bihar have also bought cane at more or less an identical premium over FRP.

There is a double whammy in that for the mills in north India, which came under a spell of bad weather, leading to low sugar recovery of 9.2 per cent. FRP of Rs 139.12 a quintal is linked to sugar recovery of 9.5 per cent with cane price going up with rises in recovery rates.

Mills in Maharashtra and Karnataka, where crushing is still on, are paying for cane according to the FRP formula. But the sugar recovery there being high, cane growers are adequately compensated with FRP indexed prices. No doubt Maharashtrian mills are better off than their counterparts in UP and Bihar. Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) former president Om Prakash Dhanuka says sugar being an agro-based industry is fed cane by around 50 million growers, it is in everyone's interest to sustain their interest in the crop by rewarding them adequately for their efforts. What should also be factored in is that how much land farmers will keep under cane will be based on relative rates of return from a bunch of crops. "Cane growers can be paid well without the mills piling up unpaid cane bills as is happening this season provided sugar is sold in the market on cost plus basis. Let's be clear that sugar prices don't punch a hole in the family budget, such low is its share in total food bill," says Dhanuka.

Isn't there a consensus in the industry that a "formula-based cane price linking cane price payment to realisations from sugar and primary by-products bagasse and molasses," which has worked nicely in some leading sugar producing countries, be introduced here? At the same time, other reforms touching the industry should not be postponed any longer. Let decontrol start with the removal of 10 per cent levy obligation of the industry and also doing away with sugar release mechanism. On neither issue, the state governments do not have a role to play. So, New Delhi is spared the pain of seeking a concord in these matters. Moreover, the time cannot be more opportune than now to push through the reforms. Sugar is plentifully available with this season's estimated production at 25 million tonnes. The way planting has progressed so far and the initial forecast by Meteorological Department of a normal monsoon should lead to a record sugar production in the next season beginning October 2011. At this point, the industry is incurring a loss of at least Rs150 a bag filled with 100 kg sugar.

No surprise then that the industry's cane dues have climbed to around Rs 7,000 crore. The point is if there is haemorrhaging of the industry, which is now happening, because of policy

inadequacies, farmers' interest will invariably be compromised. Unpaid farmer bills will periodically visit the sugar economy till such time a linkage is established between realisations from sugar and its by-products and cane prices. At the same time, why should sugar be singled out from the whole range of commodities for its producers to bear a subsidy burden of over Rs 2,800 crore. But, once cash transfers to the target population replace the corruption ridden PDS, levy sugar will become redundant.

### **Direct ethanol manufacture not under sugar decontrol order**

**Anindita Dey / Mumbai May 10, 2011, 0:21 IST**

The law ministry has rejected the proposal of food ministry for direct manufacture of ethanol from sugarcane on a standalone basis and not only as a by-product of sugar by amending the Sugar Control Order under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act.

Backed by the view of attorney general, law ministry has stated that the proposal could be considered under separate provisions and not under the sugar control order which is governed by the Essential Commodities Act and regulates the manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of sugar.

“Ethanol is not an essential commodity and even if it is to be manufactured as a controlled commodity, it cannot be accommodated under the Sugar Control Order. When ethanol is not an essential commodity, it cannot be included directly under the order, which is a subordinate legislation under the Essential Commodities Act. The ambit of a subordinate legislation cannot be widened by amendment when the parent legislation does not provide for the same. Thus, ethanol production directly from sugarcane is out of the ambit of the sugar control order,” said sources close to the development.

It has already communicated its views to the ministry of food and consumer affairs, sources said.

The law ministry has also cited Article 47 of the Constitution, which pertains to the duty of the states to raise the standard of living and nutrition level of its subjects. “Provisions of Article 47 have to be considered before amending the Essential Commodities Act to include ethanol even as a controlled commodity,” sources said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) had ruled against the direct manufacture of ethanol from sugarcane, citing concerns over food security, which is the primary responsibility of the Essential Commodities Act, sources said.


The proposal was sent by the food ministry for legal opinion at the initiative of the government of Bihar, which has tied up several projects for the direct manufacture of ethanol from sugarcane. "Bihar is laying emphasis on the development of agro-based industries for its own economic development after much of the mineral resources have come under the domain of the newly formed state of Jharkhand," said an official source.

At present, the direct manufacture of ethanol is not allowed in India but only as a by-product during sugar production. The prospect of ethanol in India is perceived to increase manifold after the ministry of petroleum and natural gas makes it mandatory for the states to blend ethanol with petrol to reduce environment pollution, said source.

India currently has 122 plants manufacturing ethanol as a by-product, having a capacity of around 1.2 billion litres per annum. Of the 120 units, 71 are in Maharashtra, 12 in Gujarat, six in Andhra Pradesh, five in Tamil Nadu, 14 in Uttar Pradesh and 10 in other states.

## THE HINDU Business Line

Garlic, onion to help 'suck' out pest in paddy



**RESCUING FOOD**

- 🔴 Scientists discover molecules in garlic that can check multiplication of Brown Plant Hopper pest in wheat plants
- 🔴 Company ties up with Bose Institute of Kolkata for experiments

Hyderabad, May 9:

Garlic and onion, grandma's favourite anti-biotic and cholesterol managers, will soon come to the rescue of paddy from the sucking pest, a nagging threat to paddy fields in the rice bowls of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Though not new to organic farmers, agriculture scientists now have identified certain molecules that stymie the reproduction cycle of brown plant hopper (BPH), the pest that sucks juices out of plants, reducing yields. When used in regular paddy seeds, these molecules will ensure that the pest cannot multiply, thereby protecting the crop.

"We have tied up with Bose Institute of Kolkata. We are incorporating this attribute in paddy and hoping to see results in the next few seasons," Dr Usha Barwale Zehr, Chief Technology Officer of Mahyco, told *Business Line*.

Of the loss caused by pests to paddy, BPH occupied second rank with 25 per cent after stem borer's 40 per cent. Resurgence of BPH had been reported from many States during 2008 and later, a report prepared by the Directorate of Rice Research said.

Mahyco markets 115 products in 30 crop species, including cereals, oilseeds, fibre crops and vegetables.

The company spends 8-10 per cent of its turnover on research and development. In 2010-11, it spent Rs 55 crore on research. "We are planning to take this to 15 per cent in the next 2-3 years," she said.

## **Cotton**

Dr Barwale said the company expected five new traits in cotton seeds in the next five years to make the plant consume less water and tackle sucking pests, and to improve fibre quality. The list includes a trait that would help the plant to consume fertilisers more efficiently.

"As we go further, we need to produce more with less water. Molecular breeding tools will help the farmers in improving tolerance to stresses and pests, while increasing abilities to tackle pests," she said.



“Our immediate focus would be on the seven crops – rice, wheat, cotton, brinjal, chilly, okra and cauliflower. We will introduce the tools and technologies in these crops first. We may use them in other crops, such as chickpea and soya,” she said.

### **Wheat procurement touches 217.37 lakh t**



New Delhi, May 9:

Wheat procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies for the ongoing 2011-12 rabi marketing season (April-June) has touched 217.37 lakh tonnes (lt), according to the Food Ministry data compiled as on Monday.

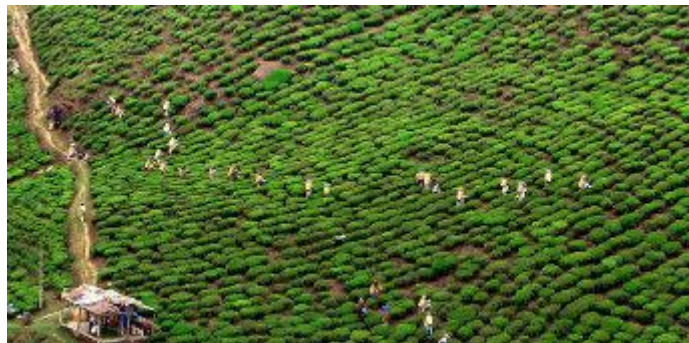
The 217.37 lt is more than the 209.91 lt bought during the corresponding period of 2010-11. Procurement has been higher in Punjab (102.58 lt against 100.83 lt), Haryana (64.14 lt against 62.93 lt), Madhya Pradesh (34 lt against 30.01 lt) and Rajasthan (6.89 lt against 4.31 lt), while trailing in Uttar Pradesh (8.77 lt against 10.54 lt).

During the entire 2010-11 season, Government agencies procured 225.14 lt of wheat, which is likely to be surpassed this time. In fact, Food Ministry officials project total procurement to cross 260 lt, which, on top of opening stocks of 153.64 lt on April 1, is likely to cause major storage problems for the FCI.

Even assuming a depletion of 50-55 lt during April-June, the total wheat stock in the Central will be around 360 lt on July 1, which is way above the required minimum buffer and strategic reserve of 201 lt for that date.

Meanwhile, in the case of rice, procurement during the 2010-11 marketing season (October-September) has reached 271.36 lt. This, again, is more than the 270.73 lt purchased during the same period of the preceding season.

### **35% tea unsold at Coonoor auctions**



A panoramic view of the tea garden (file photo)

Coonoor, May 9:

As much as 35.5 per cent of the 14.02 lakh kg on offer remained unsold at Sale No: 18 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions, keeping with last one month's trend of huge volume being withdrawn.

Teas worth about Rs 3.14 crore were withdrawn for want of buyers, despite shedding Rs 3 a kg.

“Orthodox leaf lost Rs 2-3 a kg. Better medium CTC leaf lost up to Rs 3, plainers suffered withdrawal despite shedding Rs 2-5. Some high priced ones, however, managed to fetch Rs 5-10 more. High-priced CTC dusts eased Rs 5-7, while plainers suffered withdrawal despite shedding Rs 2-5. Some better mediums, however, gained Rs 2-3. Orthodox dusts were dearer by Rs 5-10,” an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped CTC market at Rs 142 a kg. Vigneshwar Estate got Rs 136, Hittakkal Estate Rs 135, Shanthi Supreme Rs 133, Deepika Supreme Rs 127, Professor and Wavertree Rs 123 each and Garswood Estate Clonal Rs 121. In all, 53 marks got Rs 100 and more.

## Cardamom prices crash on heavy arrivals



Kochi, May 9:

Cardamom prices crashed last week at auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu on traders' apprehensions that farmers are holding huge carryover stocks, as is evident from the good arrivals even after the harvest has got over.

Good weather conditions so far this year has also led the traders to believe that the next crop will arrive a month in advance, in June, and thus there would not be any lean season this year.

Consequently, buying has slowed as traders are now of the view that there is no need to maintain inventory as there won't be any gap between the last and the next crop, market sources said.

To substantiate their perception, arrivals continued to remain comparatively higher than the normal at this time of the year.

As the market started declining, exporters stayed away, as also many of the buyers from upcountry.

## **Auction prices**

The individual auction average price after a long time dropped to below Rs 700 a kg. At the auction on Saturday, the average price dropped to 668.94 a kg, the lowest in several weeks. However, on Sunday, at the KCPMC auction, the price moved up to 691.99 a kg. The maximum price was Rs 1,015.50 a kg and the minimum Rs 491.50 a kg, Mr P. C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC told *Business Line*.

The fall in prices appears to have compelled the growers to hold back their produce this week, he said.

Total arrivals during the current season, from August 1 to May 8, 2011, stood at 9,599.6 tonnes. Of this, 9,350 tonnes were sold.

Arrivals and sales in the same period of the previous season were 9,230 tonnes and 9,040 tonnes respectively.

The weighted average price as on May 8 was Rs 1,075.50 a kg, up from Rs 828.25 a kg on the same day last year.

The prices per kg for graded varieties in Kumily on Monday were: AGEB, Rs 1,020-1,030; AGB, Rs 1,010-1,020; AGS, Rs 910-920; and AGS1, Rs 865-985.

According to trade sources, the prices per kg in the open market in Bodinayakannur were: AGEB (7-8 mm), Rs 1,010; AGB (6-7 mm), Rs 900-930; AGS (5-6 mm), Rs 865; and AGS 1, Rs 840.

All the cardamom growing tracts in Idukki district received rains in the week before last. Overall weather conditions remained suitable for the plants and, hence, the next crop might be good and is likely to come early, growers said.

## Barley strengthens in thin trade



The Hindu

New Delhi, May 9:

In thin trading, barley prices strengthened by Rs 20 a quintal in the wholesale grains market on Monday on increased demand against less arrivals.

Traders said increased demand from consuming industries against slow down in arrivals mainly helped barley prices to move up. In the national capital, barley prices rose by Rs 20 to Rs 1,320-1,325 a quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs a quintal: Wheat MP (deshi) 1,600-1,750, wheat dara (for mills) 1,165-1,170 chakki atta (delivery) 1,180-1,185, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 640-660 (50 kg), Maida 700-730 (50 kg) and Sooji 750-770 (50 kg).

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,500, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,400—5,500, rice Pusa-(1121) 4,300-5,300, Permal raw 1,825-1,875, Permal wand 2,000-2,100, Sela 2,100-2,150 and Rice IR-8 1,700-1,725, Bajra 1010-1020, Jowar yellow 1,050-1,120, white 1,850-1,895, Maize 1,250-1,260, Barley 1,320-1325 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090.



## Cashew rises on firm demand



A file picture of raw cashew nuts for sale.

New Delhi, May 9:

Cashew prices rose by Rs 5 a kg in the national capital on Monday largely supported by pick-up in demand amid low stocks due to tight supplies from growing regions.

Cashew kernel No 180, No 210, No 240 and No 320 rose by Rs 5 to settle at Rs 620-630 Rs 575-580, Rs 510-515 and Rs 440-460 per kg, respectively.

Market analysts said increased buying by retailers and stockists owing to domestic demand against low stocks mainly pushed up cashew prices.

Following are today's quotations in Rs for 40 kg: Almond (California) Rs 9,600 Almond (gurbandi-new) Rs 4,900-5,200 almond (girdhi) Rs 2,600-2,800 and Abjosh Afghani Rs 7,000-20,000. Almond kernel for a kg (California) Rs 335-345, almond kernel (gurbandi-new) (kg) Rs 320-390.

Chilgoza (roasted) (1 kg) Rs 1,400-1,500 Cashew kernel 1 kg (no 180) Rs 620-630 Cashew kernel (no 210) Rs 575-580 Cashew kernel (no 240) Rs 510-515 Cashew kernel (no 320) Rs 440-460 Cashew kernel broken 2 pieces Rs 370-430 Cashew kernel broken 4 pieces Rs 360-410 Cashew kernel broken 8 pieces Rs 280-350.