

Farmers firm on staging fast for river-link scheme

TIRUNELVELI, January 4, 2014 - *Approach court to stage a protest on Monday*

Farmers of Tirunelveli district are determined to go ahead with their plan to observe a fast, condemning the delay in execution of the crucial Tamiraparani – Karumaeniyar – Nambiyar link scheme for want of funds.

To reinforce their point, farmers have obtained replies from the Public Works Department that show that the project starves for funds.

While presenting the Budget proposals for 2012-13, O. Panneerselvam, Finance Minister, said that Rs. 100 crore had been allocated for the scheme. The PWD Minister, in his Budget proposals for 2013-14, informed the Assembly that the State government had allocated Rs. 156.44 crore for the project.

However, the reply given by M.S. Rajan, Executive Engineer, PWD, for a query under the RTI Act on June 6, 2013, says only Rs.14.17 crore was allocated during the current fiscal for the project.

Another reply given by A. Malaisamy, Superintending Engineer (Projects Circle), PWD, on November 28, 2013, under the RTI Act clarifies that the first and second phases of the project have been completed with the allocation of funds by the State government as it was expected that this expenditure would be compensated by the funds to be released from the Centre's Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

The State government is of the opinion that the third and fourth phases of the linking exercise could be started once funds from the Centre's programme were released.

"To force the official machinery to resume the work on the river-link scheme, we have planned to organise a massive hunger strike at Thisaiyanvilai, one of the beneficiary regions of the project, on January 6.

As the police did not give permission for this protest, we've approached the court," said M. Appavu, former Radhapuram MLA, and one of the organisers of the agitation.

Farmers reiterate demand for duty on red gram imports

RAICHUR, January 4, 2014 - *They will observe bandh in five districts on January 9*

Members of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha (KPRS), the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) and the All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) have urged the government to impose 30 per cent duty on red gram imports.

Addressing a joint press conference here on Friday, State president of KPRS Maruti Manpade, State president of KRRS Chamarasa Mali and State committee member of AIKS Moulana Ulha said that the duty-free imports of red gram had hit the domestic red gram growers hard.

About 18 lakh tonnes of red gram had been imported till September 2013 and it was available in the market for as low a price as Rs. 3,800 a quintal, because no import duty was charged on it. In addition, an incentive of 15 per cent was also given to it by the Indian government. The domestic red gram growers could not sell their produce at this price because their cost of production was itself more than Rs. 6,000 a quintal. About 35 lakh tonnes of red gram was imported without charging any duty in the previous year, Mr. Manpade said.

Keeping all its international trade treaties in mind, the Indian government could impose could impose anti-dumping duty, import duty and countervailing duty on the imports of pulses to safeguard the interests of domestic farmers, he said.

Mr. Manpade urged the State government to increase its contribution from Rs. 700 a quintal to Rs. 1,200 a quintal to make the minimum support price (MSP) for red gram Rs. 5,500 a quintal. Farmers spend about Rs. 26,000 an acre to cultivate red gram. The cost of production would work out to Rs. 6,000 a quintal, taking the average production to be at four quintals an acre. "The Union government gives Rs. 4,300 a quintal and the State adds Rs. 700 to it to make the MSP of Rs. 5,000 a quintal. We are urging the State government to increase its contribution to Rs. 1,200 a quintal, which will take the MSP to Rs. 5,500 a quintal," he said. Red gram procurement centres should be opened in every hobli in the red gram-growing districts immediately and the restriction that each farmer could sell a maximum of 20 quintals of red gram should be removed, he said.

Bandh

Mr. Manpade announced that farmers' organisations had collectively called for a bandh in five districts, seeking fixation of remunerative MSP for red gram and levy of duties on imports. Five major red gram-producing districts in the State — Raichur, Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir and Bijapur — will observe a bandh on January 9. However, steps would be taken to ensure that the supply of essential commodities and medical services remained unaffected during the bandh, he said.

📌 **Leaders want the 15 p.c. incentive being extended to imported red gram withdrawn**

📌 **State government urged to increase its contribution to MSP to Rs. 1,200 a quintal**

'Set up maize procurement centres'

HUBLI, January 4, 2014 - Pralhad Joshi, MP, has urged the Deputy Commissioner of Dharwad to set up procurement centres at Morab, Alagawadi and Hebbal in Navalgund taluk to procure maize under the minimum support price. In a release, Mr. Joshi said the lone maize procurement centre set up at Navalgund APMC submarket was inadequate, as maize cultivation had been taken up in 20,000 hectares of Navalgund taluk and a yield of seven to eight lakh quintals of maize was expected.

More thrust on vegetable production



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, January 4, 2014 - The State Horticulture Mission - Kerala will initiate a programme to promote the cultivation of safe-to-eat cool season vegetables, fruits like strawberry and litchi and the Dutch Rose flower in Idukki and Wayanad districts.

Governor Nikhil Kumar, in his address to the Assembly here on Friday, said special thrust would be given to cultivation of vegetables in Vattavada and Kanthalloor in Idukki, strawberry in

Idukki, the tropical fruit Litchi in Wayanad and the Dutch Rose in Munnar.

Mr. Nikhil Kumar said the SHM-K would set up nutrigardens in the Attapady tribal belt to tackle the problem of malnutrition.

Organic farming

Organic farming would be encouraged in Kasaragod, Idukki and Wayanad to gradually transform Kerala into an organic State. A technology centre would be set up with the assistance of the Netherlands government while subsidy and interest subventions would be made available for hi-tech agriculture.

Farmers adopting hi-tech practices would be organised into farmer producer organisations to compete in the global market. Mr. Nikhil Kumar announced steps to encourage open precision farming of banana and vegetables.

He said the government would usher in a new approach of crop health management based on building sustainable ecosystems and good plant protection practices. Plant health clinics would be established in select Krishi Bhavans.

Water conservation

As many as 28 new soil and water conservation projects would be taken up with NABARD assistance to develop 23,023 hectares. The Governor announced an eco-restoration project for the development of 78 vulnerable tribal habitats.

To augment meat production, the government would establish 1,000 calf fattening units. A new poultry farm and hatchery unit would be set up at Edavanna in Malappuram. Two multi-specialty mobile veterinary clinics, two livestock management training centres at Kasaragod and Wayanad and an animal science museum at Malampuzha have been proposed. In the dairy sector, the government has plans to establish a model e-market for trading in quality milch animals, Mr. Nikhil Kumar said.

Go green with jute

VISAKHAPATNAM, January 4, 2014 - A wide range of products on display at expo



An artisan from West Bengal arranging jute dolls at the expo in Visakhapatnam on Friday.— PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

The natural yarn of jute in varied shapes and forms meet your eyes at 'Jute Air' exhibition that began at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan here on Friday. Master weavers from across the country have put up their exhibits in 23 stalls at the expo facilitated by National Jute

Board, Hyderabad, under the Ministry of Textiles of India.

The expo features a wide range of home furnishing, attractive jute jewellery, eco-friendly wall hangings, jute bags in diverse sizes, table mats, wallets, showpieces, swings and several other products. Those who want to check out on jute sandals, the venue offers a colourful selection of flip-flops.

Entrepreneurs and direct manufacturers from different places like Srikakulam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and other regions put up their exhibits. Some of the wall hangings also have a subtle blend of appliqué work with beads and embroidery embedded in them. Additional Joint Collector Y. Narasimha Rao, who inaugurated the expo, said that the products displayed have gone through a refined metamorphosis compared to last year. "The hand woven crafts are neat and elegant that suits the taste of the present generation. The recent introduction of GO 101, which came into existence this year, facilitates entrepreneurs who belong to SC/ST/BC, members of disabled welfare group, minorities and other groups avail a subsidy of either Rs.1 lakh or 60 per cent of the unit cost whichever is less to set up their own enterprise."

Growing demand

B. Narsimulu of National Jute Board highlighted the growing demand for jute products across the country. He said: "The avenue not only helps the weavers gain an extra edge to improve their marketing techniques but also offers an excellent alternative to plastic bags."

Country boat fishermen eye subsidy for tuna liners

TUTICORIN, January 4, 2014 - *They blame the government for ignoring their interests*



grievance:Collector M. Ravikumar addressing the fishermen at a meeting in Tuticorin on Friday. — Photo: N. Rajesh

Country boat fishermen have sought the intervention of officials to tap government subsidy for converting their

boats into tuna liners.

At the fishermen grievances redressal meet held here on Friday, which was presided over by Collector M. Ravikumar, some fishermen from Threspuram sought to avail this government subsidy.

Santiago, a fisherman, charged that the government was ignoring the interests of the country boat fishermen and subsidies for tuna fishing in deep sea were being enjoyed only by mechanized boat operators.

M. Johnson, another fisherman from Threspuram, said country boats were built on a par with mechanised boats and were engaged in fishing in deep waters.

The Collector said the government had been extending the subsidies to those engaged in mechanised boat fishing.

Meanwhile, officials said if the structure, equipment and engines designed in country boats complied with recommendations of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, their demands could be represented to the government.

Seeking cooperation of the Indian Coast Guard personnel in rescue operations, S.

Maharajan, panchayat president, Tharuvaikulam, opined that the personnel could take help of fishermen from the coastal areas of the affected fishermen to expedite the rescue operation.

He said this while referring to the recent incident in which four fishermen of Amali Nagar near Tiruchendur had been rescued by fishermen of Koothankuli coast on Thursday.

The Collector advised the fishermen to be equipped with life saving equipment such as life jacket, lifebuoy and red cloth or flag so as to attract attention of rescuers.

Mr. Maharajan talked of the need to construct breakwaters at Tharuvaikulam coast, where a fish landing centre was being constructed to protect boats from damage by rough sea.

Moreover, the coastal populace of Tharuvaikulam had been facing drinking water scarcity, he noted.

The Collector asked the TWAD Board officials to step up remedial measures.

Cash prizes were given to 20 children of fishermen for having excelled in academic matter in 2012-13.

Besides, accident insurance benefit of Rs 1 lakh to a family member of a victim and subsidy of Rs. 27, 500 for ornamental fish culture to a beneficiary of Vilathikulam was given.

Fishermen to get free mobile service

BHUBANESWAR, January 4, 2014 - The Odisha government on Thursday entered into an agreement with IFFCO Kissan Sanchar Limited (IKSL) for providing advisory services to fishermen on weather, fishing zones, market price and government schemes.

Under 'Empowering Fishermen through Mobile Advisory Services and Establishment of Toll Free Call Centre for Fisheries Extension Service', the partnering agency will recharge SIMs regularly.

The fishermen are not required to pay any additional cost towards services, but they need to pay for their normal communication needs exceeding the proposed amount of talk time for their personal use. Of the 12 lakh fishermen in both coastal and interior areas, one lakh will be provided SIM cards in phased manner and could receive 4-5 free voice messages in Odia.

The total cost of the scheme including implementation charges has been finalised at Rs.3.48 crore in 2013-14. Information and advisories would be provided to fishermen in the form of brief one minute capsules, which are focused on an area of local and contextual importance which is easy to remember.

Information and advisories will be provided to fishermen in the form of brief one-minute capsules

WATER LEVEL



Madurai - The water level in Periyar dam on Friday was 114.90 feet with an inflow of 150 cusecs and a discharge of 344 cusecs. The water level in Vaigai dam was 41.14 feet with an inflow of six cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 1,993 mcft.

No rain - There was no rainfall recorded in the region during the last 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Friday, according to

Public Works Department sources.

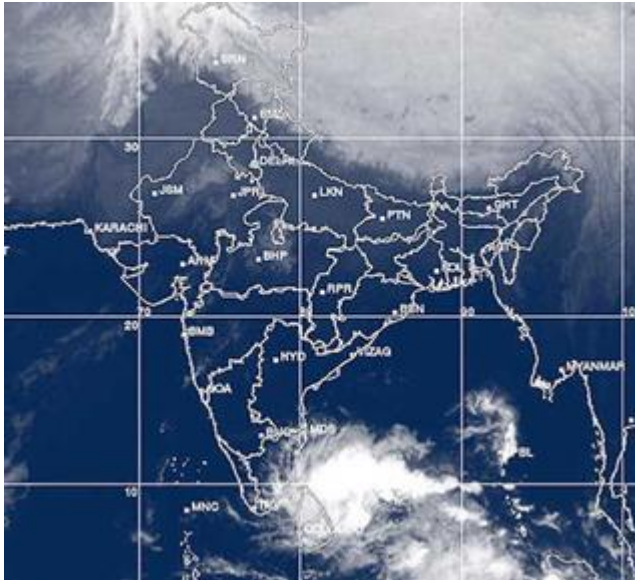
The water level in Mettur dam stood at 64.63 feet on Friday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 1,258 cusecs and the discharge 8,999 cusecs.

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 84 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 220.11 cusecs and 305.50 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 73.20 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 15 cusecs and 530 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari - The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 23.05 feet, 56.80 feet in Perunchani, 13.02 feet in Chittar 1, 13.12 feet in Chittar 11, 4.50 feet in Poigai and 54.12 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on January 03.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	30	16	0	0
Arogyavaram	27	15	0	0
Bapatla	30	17	0	0
Calingapatnam	27	17	0	0
Gannavaram	30	18	0	0
Hanamkonda	31	15	0	0
Hyderabad AP	27	15	0	0
Kakinada	30	19	0	0
Khammam	30	17	0	0
Kavali	29	19	0	2
Kurnool	31	16	0	0
Mahabubnagar	26	15	0	0
Machilipatnam	30	19	0	0
Narasapur	29	19	0	0
Nellore	29	21	0	tr
Nizamabad	31	15	0	0
Ongole	31	19	0	0
Ramagundam	30	13	0	0
Tirupathi AP	30	21	0	0
Tuni	31	18	0	0
Vizag AP	30	19	0	0
Vizag	30	21	0	0

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	29	11	0	0
Bangalore AP	26	15	0	0
Bangalore	26	15	0	0
Bagalkote	30	11	0	0
Belgaum AP	28	13	0	0
Bellary	30	13	0	0
Bijapur	28	11	0	0
Chitradurga	27	14	0	0
Chickmagalur	27	13	0	0
Chintamani	26	12	0	0
Gadag	28	13	0	0
Gulbarga	30	16	0	0
Hassan	28	10	0	0
Honavar	34	23	0	0

Karwar	35	23	0	0
Madikeri	24	13	0	0
Mangalore AP	33	21	0	0
Mysore	28	18	0	0
Mandya	29	15	0	0
Panambur	35	21	0	0
Raichur	29	13	0	0
Shirali	33	21	0	0
KERALA				
Alappuzha	32	22	0	0
Kannur	33	23	0	0
Kochi AP	33	21	0	0
Kottayam	33	21	0	0
Kozhikode	34	23	0	0
Punalur	33	21	0	0
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	33	23	0	0
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	34	23	0	0
Vellanikkara	32	24	0	0
TAMIL NADU				
Adirapattinam	31	21	0	tr
Chennai	29	24	tr	tr
Chennai AP	29	22	tr	1
Coimbatore AP	29	19	0	0
Coonoor	19	9	0	0
Cuddalore	30	23	0	0
Dharmapuri	28	17	0	0
Kanyakumari	31	23	0	0
Karaikal	29	24	0	tr
Kodaikanal	21	10	0	0
Madurai AP	31	22	0	0
Nagapattinam	29	25	0	tr
Palayamkottai	32	22	0	0
Pamban	29	24	0	0
Parangipettai	31	23	0	0
Puducherry	30	22	0	1
Salem	31	19	0	0
Thanjavur	29	22	0	0
Tiruchi AP	30	21	0	tr
Tirupattur	29	19	0	0
Tiruttani	30	19	0	0
Tondi	29	22	0	0
Tuticorin	30	21	0	0
Ooty	22	8	0	0
Valparai	27	11	0	0
Vedaranyam	—	—	—	—
Vellore	29	20	0	0
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	33	24	0	0
Minicoy	31	23	0	0
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	27	16	0	0
Mumbai	33	21	0	0
New Delhi	18	5	0	0

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since January 01, 2014.

DRY WEATHER FORECAST IN A.P.

CHENNAI: Mainly dry weather prevailed over coastal Tamil Nadu and dry weather prevailed over interior Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Karnataka.

The minimum temperature rose at one or two places over coastal Karnataka, fell at a few places over Tamil Nadu, Rayalaseema and changed little elsewhere over the region.

They were markedly below normal at one or two places over north interior Karnataka, appreciably below normal at one or two places over Telangana, rest north interior Karnataka, below normal at one or two places over south interior Karnataka, appreciably above normal at one or two places over coastal Karnataka, above normal at one or two places over rest Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu and were remained normal over rest of the region.

Adilabad , Chamrajnagar and Bijappur recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

Forecast(valid till Sunday morning): Isolated rain may occur over coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Mainly dry weather will prevail over interior Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Heavy rainfall warning: Isolated heavy rain may commence over coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry from Sunday.

hindustantimes

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Jan 4

Max Min

28° | 22°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 55

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:30

Sunset: 05:52

Barometer: 1014

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Jan 5

Max Min

29° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Jan 6



29° | 24°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday

Jan 7



28° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday

Jan 8



28° | 24°

Cloudy

Thursday

Jan 9



28° | 24°

Cloudy

Friday

Jan 10



26° | 24°

Overcast

Farmers demand more compensation

DHOLERA: The state government on Friday announced that the [Narmada water](#) will once again reach the Bhal area. The farmers demanded that the Jantri for giving compensation to them should be revised and the compensation should be given as per the Jantri for an irrigation land.

K D Chanrani, IAS in-charge of Dholera SIR, announced that on December 19, last year the state government and the [Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited](#) had taken the decision that about 30,000 hectares of land as per the original Narmada Project would get water for irrigation. He said on December 31 last year the government had also taken a decision to begin work soon. Apart from demanding livelihood, the farmers also sought compensation for their land as per irrigation land.

One of the farmers, Omdevsinh Baldevishn from Kajipur, said "First the government withdrew Narmada water and later they decided the Jantri rate and fixed compensation, but now they are promising Narmada water. Give us compensation as irrigated land and not as non-irrigation land."

District collector Roopwant Singh was also flooded with complaints that the land which originally belonged to the farmers

has been handed over to SIR for sale. The collector later said that he would hold one-to-one meeting and would resolve the issue.

At least 10 different organizations including the Nature Conservation Society and Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti made written representations. Mahesh Pandya of Paryavan Suraksha samiti said, "Due to Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), 33.5% of irrigated agriculture land will be converted into industrial land. This will raise issues of food insecurity which is already a challenge in the coming year. Also, this area is producer of Bhaliya wheat, which is very high quality wheat and found in this area alone. Thirdly, traditional livelihood pattern will be disturbed due to the upcoming project of DSIR. Animal husbandry of the villagers who are residing in the gamtal inside DSIR will be affected as they will not have enough grazing land for the animals."

Villagers are not willing to give land to the project which will create disturbance and will cause destruction in their lives. The draft report is like making a mockery of the hearing. The government has not followed any guidelines for the same. Even the provisions of Coastal Zonal Regulations have been violated.

Palamu Tiger Reserve will train farmers in bee-keeping

Daltonganj: The sweetness of honey is expected to reach the families of Oraon and Kherwar in three villages of the [Palamu Tiger Reserve](#). The new year is set to bring in extra money to the economically backward sections of Henar, Armu and Domakharn.

More than 35 [farmers](#) have queued up for training in bee-keeping. Organic honey is found in abundance in the forestry sector of the tiger reserve where insecticides or pesticide are not sprayed on flowering plants. The use of such chemicals is prohibited in the forests. The list of these 35 farmers belonging to the Oraon and Kherwar community has been sent to principal chief conservator of forest Ranchi. The state, however, wants 100 farmers to be trained in [bee-keeping](#), said sources.

Farmers interested in pursuing honey business have two options. They can either go to Jabalpur, which houses the regional office of the National Honey Bee Board or wait for the state government to bring in a trainer from there to the tiger reserve to impart training to the farmers here. The chief conservator of forest territorial in Ranchi circle has been made the nodal officer for this. The news was confirmed by Anil K Mishra, DFO (buffer area) of PTR.

In the buffer area of the tiger reserve, organic honey comes for Rs 100 a kilogram, said Mishra. The agents of indigenous pharma companies come here and collect honey. It is then packed in attractive jars and sold for Rs 300 per kg.

Quizzed about the presence of one honey processing plant in Betla, Mishra said, "As this honey processing plant did not remain much in use in the past, the plant's machine has now been sent for servicing." Once it becomes functional, this plant will be used for processing honey here.

The official informed that Jharcraft is also eager to tap the honey market of the tiger reserve. He said the tiger reserve will have no problems if any MoU is reached between Jharcraft and the farmers who live in the villages of the tiger reserve.

Farmers from Bihar come to the tiger reserve to collect honey. Women of Oraon and Kherwar in Palamu too want to learn how to collect honey, said Mishra.

Odisha fishermen to get voice alerts on mobiles



The farmers will receive 4-5 free voice messages daily in Odia. (AP Photo)

BHUBANESWAR: At least 100,000 fishermen in Odisha will start getting free voice alerts in Odia related to weather, tsunamis and cyclones on their mobiles within a fortnight, officials said on Friday.

The state government has signed a pact with IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL) on Thursday to provide the service, Bishnupada Sethi, fishery and animal husbandry department secretary, told IANS.

IKSL is a joint venture promoted by state-run Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Bharti Airtel, and Star Global Resources Ltd..

Out of 12 lakh state fishermen, both in costal and interior areas, one lakh fishermen will initially be provided a free SIM card, Sethi said.

The farmers will receive 4-5 free voice messages daily in Odia, the state's official language,

he added.

The information and advisories would be provided to them in the form of brief one minute capsules focused on an area of local and contextual importance, he said.

While the voice messaging service will be free of charge, the fishermen will also be given Rs 30 free talktime every month for about a year.

"The alert especially help illiterate and semi-literate fishermen who cannot read a SMS (short message service)," Sethi said.

The project will cost Rs 3.5 crore in the first year, he said.

The enrolled fishermen will also have access to a helpline the government planned to set up, he added.

The Odisha government had been lauded by various national and internal agencies for evacuating more than a million people which ensured minimum loss of lives during cyclone Phailin in October, 2013.



Kerala panel on western ghats make pro-farmer suggestions



A panel headed by Dr Oommen V Oommen, chairman of Kerala Biodiversity Board, was asked to study the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan reports on Western Ghats in the wake of protest from public

Kerala government-appointed panel to study the Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats has made many pro-farmer recommendations which include exclusion of inhabited regions and plantations from the purview of the ecologically sensitive areas, which Kasturigan had included in 123 villages.

A panel headed by Dr Oommen V Oommen, chairman of Kerala Biodiversity Board, was asked to study the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan reports on Western Ghats in the wake of protest from public.

The Oommen committee, which submitted the report to the chief minister on Friday, said the Kerala (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile) Land Act 2003 has lost its relevance. Hence, that act should be expunged in a manner curbing the vesting of private land. It said quarrying in forest areas should be banned immediately.

The panel, which held sittings in several places in the Western Ghats, said the government should immediately issue order allaying the fears of the farmers that the steps for conserving the Western Ghats should not hamper cultivating rubber, coffee and other cash crops.

The state-level committee said a field survey should be held in places which Madhav Gadgil has identified as ecologically sensitive zones and Kasturirangan has identified as sensitive areas to demarcate forest from human settlements. After examining the population density, human settlements should be exempted from the category of ecologically sensitive areas. It said farmers should not be prevented from rearing hybrid varieties of milking animals and the grace period to shift to organic farming should be extended to 10 years from five years. The report said the forest areas should be fenced to prevent the animals straying into farms, a cause of concern for farmers.

DECCAN Chronicle

Small is really beautiful



In an age of obsession with everything big, we live under the illusion that bigger is better. We tend to believe that we need big farms, big dams, big corporations to meet our needs for food and water. Giant corporations have grown bigger with five companies globally controlling the seed supply, food supply and water supply.

Among these corporations are Monsanto, Cargill, Nestle, Suez and Wal-Mart. We assume that farms must grow bigger and bigger for food security.

But the reality is that “small is big” — ecologically, economically and politically. The future of food security in India and worldwide lies in protecting and promoting small farmers. At the ecological level, we know that in a small seed lies the potential for producing thousands and millions of seed. And in each of those seeds lies the potential for thousand and million more such seeds. This is abundance. While the small farmer sows seeds, he prays, “May this seed be exhaustless”.

Yet, when seed is patented or biologically terminated by giant corporations, it cannot multiply or be reproduced. It produces zero seeds. The motto seems to be: “May this seed get exhausted so that our profits never exhaust.”

Small biodiverse farms produce more than large farms. In fact, output and income can be doubled by conserving seeds and intensifying biodiversity. The fact that small is big in agriculture has been known all along, yet big has been privileged as the basis of food security.

India’s former Prime Minister Charan Singh, who was an agricultural economist, had said that small farms are more productive than large farms.

“Agriculture being a life process, in actual practice, under given conditions, yields per acre decline as the size of farm increases (in other words, as the application of human labour and supervision per acre decreases).

The above results are well nigh universal: output per acre of investments is higher on small farms than on large farms.

Thus, if a crowded, capital-scarce country like India has a choice between a single 100- acre farm and forty 2.5- acre farms, the capital cost to the national economy will be less if the country chooses the small farms”.

Small farms produce more food than large industrial farms because small farmers give more care to the soil, to plants and animals, and they intensify biodiversity, not external chemical inputs.

As farms increase in size, they replace labour with fossil fuels for farm machinery and toxic chemicals. The caring work of farmers is replaced by harsh and careless technologies. Thus, food production per acre goes down.

Yes, a social tragedy and ecological catastrophe morphs into “myth of more”. And this myth of more is being sold to the world as a solution to hunger.

The trick is to not measure total output of a farm, but just the “yield” of a monoculture commodity. Essentially, productivity is manipulated in two ways to project large farms as more productive.

First, the only input that counts is labour, not chemicals, land, water or fossil fuels. So the more small farmers and family farmers are displaced and replaced by chemicals and machines, the false calculus says productivity has increased.

When natural resources are taken into account, industrial agriculture is, in fact, an inefficient agriculture, using 10 calories of input to produce one calorie of food.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, in spite of all subsidies going to large farms, in spite of all policies promoting industrial agriculture, even today 72 per cent food comes from small farms.

If we add kitchen gardens and urban gardens, the majority of food people eat is grown on a small scale. What is growing on large farms is not food; it is commodities.

Only 10 per cent of the corn and soya taking over world agriculture is eaten. Ninety per cent goes to drive cars as biofuel or to animals in factory farms as feed. Small farms feed the world. Big farms spread poisons and hunger.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development’s (UNCTAD) 2013 Trade and Environment Report states that monoculture and industrial farming methods are not providing sufficient affordable food where it is needed, while causing mounting and unsustainable environmental damage.

An International Labour Organisation’s report — “Working towards sustainable development: Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy” — shows that small-scale agriculture is the solution to the ecological crisis, the food crisis and the crisis of work and employment.

The report cites examples of how small farms in Africa have increased food production through ecological agriculture.

In a project involving 1,000 farmers in South Nyanza, Kenya, who are cultivating two hectares each on average, crop yields rose by 2-4 tonnes per hectare after an initial conversion to organic farming. In yet another case, the incomes of some 30,000 smallholders in Thika, Kenya, rose by 50 per cent within three years.

The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science, Technology for Development has also confirmed that small ecological farms are a more effective solution to world hunger than the Green Revolution or genetic engineering.

The living economies of the small need to join hands with the living democracies of the small to create peace and harmony, abundance and well-being.

Gandhi responded to the bigness of the British Empire by pulling out the spinning wheel. As he said, “Anything that millions can do together becomes charged with unique power... The wheel as such is lifeless, but when I invest it with symbolism, it becomes a living thing for me.”

The seed is small, but the powerhouse of life and freedom. Each of us can be savers of seed and growers of food. In Rumi’s words...

...in this earth

in this earth

in this immaculate field

we shall not plant any seeds

except for compassion

except for love

Farmers Cry Foul over Paddy Procurement, Support Price

Allegations of distress sale of paddy have come to fore in Sundargarh district. While rice millers have been accused of unnecessary interference at the paddy procurement centres, the farmers alleged that they were not getting the right price for various reasons.

At a time when the district administration is struggling to streamline the procurement process, the poor farmers are resorting to distress sale.

The Civil Supplies Department through 109 procurement centres across the district is procuring paddy and the consignments are directly sent to nine authorised rice mills for processing.

Sources said the representatives of rice mills are ruling the roost at most of the centres. They resort to deduction of five to eight kgs of paddy from one quintal on the plea of presence of foreign articles and above 16 per cent of moisture content. The farmers had recently staged a protest in Lefripara block over the issue.

Sundargarh president of BJP Krushak Morcha Rabi Chandra Patel said in the name of ensuring Fair Average Quality (FAC), the agents of rice mills are bringing down the price by `65 per quintal by deducting the weight of five kg.

The practice is rampant in Subdega, Balishankara, Lefirpara, Bargaon and Tangarpali blocks and other parts of the district. If protested, the mill agents refuse to lift stocks.

Patel further pointed out that several eligible farmers have failed to get the Farmer Identity Cards (FICs) due to either large scale vacancy in Revenue Department or erratic work schedules of the officials.

In areas close to Chhattisgarh border, traders are procuring paddy from small farmers at a price between `1100 and `1150 per quintal and selling the stock to rice mills in Chhattisgarh for `1340 per quintal.

Duaru Deo of Saunamora village in Balishankar block said he has no FIC and recently he sold around 12 quintals to a trader at the price of `1150 per quintal. A week ago, some marginal farmers sold paddy at `1050 per quintal at Karamdihi in Subdega block.

Sundargarh-based Civil Supplies Officer (CSO) Abhiram Pradhan said so far around 14,000 tonnes have been procured against the target of 66,176 tonnes. He said the discoloured paddy is more and the Food Corporation of India is likely to refuse to buy red grains. Except minor hitches, the procurement process is running smoothly, he claimed.

Vegetable Prices Crash in City, Thanks to 'Avarekai' Season



All these vegetables were sold at more than double the price couple of months ago.

Vegetable prices have come down drastically in the last one week. Tomatoes which were sold at Rs 32 just a week ago is now being sold at Rs 9 a kg. Other vegetables too have become cheaper. According to Hopcoms, Pea Bean (avarekai) season is one of the reasons for the crash in prices.

The good news for buyers is that prices of almost all vegetables have come down in the last one week. Vegetables such as onion, carrot and tomato, prices of which skyrocketed just a month ago, are among important ones which have seen a drop in prices. Onions are now sold at Rs 25 per kg, carrot at Rs 32, and tomato at Rs 9. All these vegetables were sold at more than double the price couple of months ago.

President of Hopcoms, Bangalore, H K Nagaveni Chandrashekar, said, "There is excess supply of items in the market and the effect of Pea Bean season is also one of the main reasons for the fall in the prices." She also said that prices usually fall during winter season every year. A shopkeeper in the Russell Market, Nisar Ahmed, said, "There was poor supply of vegetables in the past few months which resulted in price hike. But this winter season, the supply of vegetables has been good," he said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Bumper crop



High yield: Farm workers carrying harvested paddy for threshing at Varahvu Kottai village in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district on Friday. Paddy harvest is in full swing and the average yield is high at 7.1 tonnes a hectare in Thanjavur and Tiruchi districts. Maximum yield so far has been 8.6 tonnes and minimum 6 tonnes, according to State Agriculture Department officials. — B. Velankanni Raj

Coconut oil, copra prices up despite lower sales

Erode, Jan. 3: Coconut oil and copra prices increased this week despite lower sales. However, higher prices are seen unsustainable by traders.

“Coconut oil price increased to Rs 1,600 for 15 kg loose pack (Rs 106.60/kg). This is Rs 80 more than last week for the 15 kg loose pack. But sale has been rather low. The increase will not sustain and prices will come down to Rs 1,200 for 15 kg in the first week of February,” said R.M. Palanisamy, a coconut oil Trader.

He said that due to adverse weather conditions, production of copra has been affected. In the private market, copra is selling at Rs 7,600-7,700 a quintal. In cooperative societies, it is available at Rs 7,500 a quintal. At the Avalpoondurai Regulated Market Committee, top grade copra was sold at Rs 7,105-7,565 a quintal and the second grade went for Rs 5,440-7,305. All the 130 tonnes (2,600 bags) of copra that arrived for sale were sold.

Rising stocks keep sugar on leash

Mumbai, Jan 3: Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market dropped by Rs 3-10 a quintal for S-grade and increased by Rs 10 for M-grade on routine demand and supply. *Naka* and mill tender rates were unchanged as supply outstripped demand. Local demand at the beginning of the month has remained below expectations due to cold weather. Arrivals at the Vashi market were 58-60 truckloads (of 100 bags each), while local dispatches were 54-55 loads. On Thursday, about 19-20 mills sold 65,000-70,000 bags at Rs 2,650-2,750 (Rs 2,650-2,750) for S-grade and Rs 2,730-2,970 (Rs 2,730-2,970) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,829-2,971 (Rs 2,832-2,981) and M-grade Rs 2,951-3,162 (Rs 2,941-3,162). ***Naka* delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,800-2,880 (Rs 2,800-2,880) and M-grade Rs 2,900-3,075 (Rs 2,900-3,075).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,180.

Rain effect: Coffee output estimate cut to 3.11 lakh tonnes

State	Post-monsoon			Post-Blossom		
	Arabica	Robusta	Total	Arabica	Robusta	Total
Karnataka	78,530	1,39,170	2,17,700	86,735	1,62,380	2,49,115
Kerala	2,000	65,275	67,275	2,000	68,550	70,550
Tamil Nadu	3,950	4,925	8,875	14,815	4,940	19,125
Non-traditional areas	7,390	60	7,450	7,950	60	8,010
North-East	130	70	200	130	70	200
Total	1,02,000	2,09,500	3,11,500	1,11,000	2,36,000	3,47,000

Source: Coffee Board

Extended monsoon in growing areas hits plants; production lower than last year

Bangalore, Jan. 3: The Coffee Board has lowered its production estimate for the current season to 3.11 lakh tonnes from a record 3.47 lakh tonnes.

The projection is lower than last season's production of 3.15 lakh tonnes too.

revised estimate

The board revised its estimate for the season that began in November after assessing the damage wrought by monsoon in growing areas, particularly in Karnataka.

Continuous rain during July-September in areas such as Kodagu led to stagnation of the crop growth besides denying sunshine that is essential for photosynthesis.

In its break-up for this seasons production, the board pegged Arabica production at 1.02 lakh tonnes and Robusta at 2.09 lakh tonnes.

The board had, in its post-blossom estimate, estimated Arabica output at 1.11 lakh tonnes and Robusta production at 2.36 lakh tonnes.

State-wise, as expected, the revision sees production in Karnataka being lowered by 12.61 per cent or 31,145 tonnes. The estimate has been lowered marginally for Kerala (3,275 tonnes).

Karnataka

Within Karnataka, the projection has been lowered by 17,845 tonnes or over 13 per cent in Kodagu district, followed by Chikmagalur (8,060 tonnes) and Hassan (5,510 tonnes) compared with the post-blossom estimate.

“Looking at the widespread havoc caused by excessive rains in the coffee growing districts of Karnataka, the crop forecast by the Coffee Board is still high. We at the Karnataka Planters’ Association estimate the crop to be at around 2.80-2.90 lakh tonnes,” said Govindappa Jayaram, Chairman of Karnataka Planters’ Association. According to Bose Mandana, a senior coffee grower from Suntikoppa in Kodagu and former vice-chairman of the board, excess rains was good for coffee but they had caused widespread defoliation which would lower next year’s arabica crop. “This year, instead of 80 per cent parchment, we may end up converting only 60 per cent of coffees to parchment and rest will be cherry. As a result, the realisation will be lower,” he said. Nishant Gurjer, former Chairman of KPA and a grower from Chikmagalur, said that nothing has changed even a month into harvest.

Drought spell

“We stick to Karnataka Planters’ Association estimate. We are witnessing lower picking of robusta compared to last year,” he said. A main reason for production to drop was that coffee areas witnessed a long period of drought after receiving blossom showers in early March. This followed the harsh South-West Monsoon. Some of the growing areas received continuous rainfall for over 60 days. This led to soil saturation and wet feet conditions resulting in defoliation, berry drop and incidences of stalk rot and black rot. Uprooting of shade trees too was also reported. Before the onset of Monsoon, there was a heavy proliferation of white stem borer because of the long drought during April-May. However, heavy monsoon rains helped in preventing further spread of the pest. Taking into account of all factors, the board’s post monsoon crop estimate for Karnataka is 2,17,700 tonnes with a break up of 78,530 tonnes of arabica and 139,170 tonnes of robusta. In non-traditional areas of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and the North-East, the post monsoon forecast is 7,650 tonnes against post blossom estimate of 8,010 tonnes.

Mixed trend at N. Indian tea sale

Kolkata, Jan 3: The New Year’s first sale at Kolkata tea auction was marked by mixed trend in prices.

While the average CTC price was up at Rs 149.39 a kg compared with last week’s Rs 146.18, the average orthodox price was lower at Rs 141.71 (Rs 153.58), according to J. Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the tea auctioneers.

At the last year’s (2013) first sale at Kolkata auction, the average CTC price was lower at Rs 144.37 while the average orthodox price was higher at Rs 167.02.

An estimated 86.3 per cent (80.49 per cent last week) of CTC and 78.26 per cent (73.26 per cent) orthodox volumes offered this week were sold. The corresponding figures for last year’s first sale were CTC 81.3 per cent and orthodox 86.07 per cent.

This week, the total offerings (packages) in three North Indian auction centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri were 3,92,741 compared with 3,95,316 in 2013.

Of this, the offerings at Kolkata comprised CTC/dust 1,26,890 (1,43,537), orthodox 24,688 (13,114) and Darjeeling 4,740 (2,842). The offerings at the two other centres were: Guwahati: 1,25,779 (1,27,020) and Siliguri: 1,10,644 (1,08,804).


There was over all good demand this week. Liquoring teas were sold at firm to dearer rates. Medium varieties fetched last week’s price levels. Dooars were steady with cleaner grainy types selling at higher rates.

Tata Global operated for liquoring sorts. Western India buyers were also active for these.

HUL was selective. There were some export enquiries for bolder broken and fannings.

Nominal weight of tippy teas on offer was readily absorbed at attractive rates. Remainder irregular, stalky varieties, however, declined. Few earlier invoices elicited competition and sold well. Shippers to the CIS and West Asia were active. Other internal buyers operated for cheaper sorts.

Wheat acreage hits record high



Robust acreage		(in lakh ha)
	This year	Last year
Rice	3.25	2.72
Wheat	302.09	286.38
Pulses	146.40	142.65
Coarse cereals	56.49	59.14
Oilseeds	83.77	78.95
Total	591.99	569.83

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Area under the cereal at 302 lakh hectares; chana also at new peak

New Delhi, Jan 3: Wheat acreage in the current rabi season touched a record high of 302 lakh hectares, as farmers in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat planted more.

The acreage under gram or chana has also touched a new high of 95.39 lakh hectares. "For the first time, we have the acreage crossing 302 lakh hectares. We can expect a record production of more than 95 million tonnes, provided there is no drastic change in temperatures during February-March," Indu Sharma, Director at the Karnal-based Directorate of Wheat Research, told *Business Line*.

The previous best in wheat acreage was 299 lakh hectares in 2011-12. Last year, the cereal was planted on 296 lakh hectares.

Lured by the bonus of Rs 150 a quintal promised by the Shivaraj Singh Government in Madhya Pradesh, farmers have planted on a million hectares more.

At the same time, wheat acreage is higher by 5.54 lakh hectares in Rajasthan, 4.04 lakh hectares in Gujarat and 3.92 lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh.

Wheat planting will go on till mid-January, mainly in Uttar Pradesh, where sowing of the cereal crop was pushed back by the delayed start to sugarcane crushing.

Higher reservoir and soil moisture levels have given a fillip to rabi plantings this year and the Government is expecting a record harvest.

So far, the total rabi acreage has crossed 591.99 lakh hectares exceeding last year's levels of 569.83 lakh hectares.

The acreage of pulses has also increased marginally to 146.40 lakh hectares this season from 142.65 lakh hectares.

The area under oilseeds has increased to 83.77 lakh hectares from 78.95 lakh hectares. Rapeseed/mustard has been planted on 69.75 lakh hectares, higher than last year's 65.05 lakh hectares.

The total area under rice sown in the rabi season has also increased to 3.25 lakh hectares during the week ending Friday from 2.72 lakh hectares in the corresponding period a year ago.

However, the area under coarse cereals has decreased to 56.49 lakh hectares, from 59.14 lakh hectares, mainly on account of lower area under jowar.

Stick to prescribed crop size to get good price, Tobacco Board tells growers



K. Gopal, Chairman, Tobacco Board Guntur, Jan. 3: There has been considerable spurt in tobacco exports till November during the current financial year compared with last year. But farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka should stick to the crop size prescribed by the board to get good prices on the auction floor, according to Tobacco Board Chairman K. Gopal.

He was speaking here at the Tobacco Board formation day celebrations after presenting awards to 31 farmers from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and 19 traders. He said exports of tobacco leaf and products fetched Rs 4,000 crore till November against Rs 3,100 crore during the corresponding period a year ago. During the 2012-13 financial year, exports earnings amounted to Rs 4,979 crore. Gopal said that prospects, therefore, were good, but farmers should exercise discipline and stick to the crop size prescribed (102 million kg for Karnataka and 172 mkg for Andhra Pradesh). "It is of the essence that the crop in both the principal States should not exceed 270 mkg-275 mkg. Then, the farmer can expect a remunerative price on the floor. The trade should also support farmers," he said. He said the board was undertaking several welfare measures for farmers with a corpus of Rs 34.55 crore and so far Rs 10.31 crore had been spent on giving grants to farmers and Rs 4.28 crore in the form of loans. The board has increased the grant amount to Rs 50,000 from Rs 25,000 to farmers in the case of natural death and to Rs 1 lakh from Rs 50,000 in the case of accidental deaths. He said two more auction floors were being built in Karnataka and another in Andhra Pradesh. The board had spent Rs 3.6 crore on input subsidies. Y. Sivaji, the honorary president of the AP Virginia Tobacco Growers' Association, said that more money should be spent on the welfare of tobacco farmers, as the Government was earning huge sums in the form of foreign exchange. He said the Tobacco Board was totally self-sufficient and the Union Government was not sanctioning any funds separately for the board, unlike in the case of Rubber Board and other boards. Therefore, at least Rs 100 crore should be sanctioned for the board to take up farmers' welfare schemes. M. Srinivasulu Reddy, Member of Parliament from Ongole and Tobacco Board member, said the Government should take all steps for the welfare of tobacco growers and traders.

Spot rubber turns weak

Kottayam, Jan. 3: Domestic rubber prices continued to rule weak on Friday. There were no quantity buyers in the market even at prevailing levels, though growers seemed to be confident in holding their stocks.

According to observers, the market experienced resistance at higher levels due to the wide gap between the local and international prices.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 161 from Rs 162 and Rs 163 a kg, respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board.

The grade moved down to Rs 158 (Rs 160) as reported by dealers. The trend was partially mixed.

January futures declined to Rs 158.65 (Rs 162.06), February to Rs 160.95 (Rs 164.60), March to Rs 163.50 (Rs 167.34) and April to Rs 167 (Rs 170.92) while the May futures improved to Rs 174 (Rs 173.80) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 154.03 (Rs 155.48) at Bangkok. **Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were:** RSS-4: 161 (162); RSS-5: 154 (155); Ungraded: 149 (151); ISNR 20: 158 (159) and Latex 60%: 125 (125).

Cotton wilts on slack mills' inquiries



Rajkot, Jan. 3: Cotton prices decreased on the back of lower demand from domestic mills.

Export demand was also lower after they topped Rs 41,000 a candy (of 356 kg) earlier this week.

Since the last two days, cotton prices have dropped by Rs 300 a candy.

K apas or raw cotton prices also declined by Rs 15-20 for a maund of 20 kg.

A Rajkot-based broker said that demand for cotton has eased as the price of the fibre continuously increased during

December and touched a high of Rs 41,000 a candy.

At this level, demand from domestic mills has dropped.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded lower by Rs 100 at Rs 40,500-700 on Friday.

Raw cotton lost Rs 5 at Rs 970-1,010 for 20 kg in Rajkot.

About 65,000 bales (of 170 kg) arrived in Gujarat and 2.05 lakh bales arrived in across the country.

Market sources say export registrations from the country so far are 45 lakh bales, of which 33 lakh bales have been shipped.

About one crore bales have arrived in the market and approximately 2.75 crore bales are yet to arrive in the market.

Dow Jones reports: Cotton futures eased on the ICE US as thin trading left prices to drift lower after the market hit near three-month highs earlier this week. Cotton for March delivery on the ICE Futures US exchange was recently 0.7 per cent lower at 83.46 cents a pound.

Higher Indonesian palm oil output dampens edible oils



Mumbai, Jan. 3: Edible oils market ruled flat on Friday on slack demand tracking weak futures markets. Reports that palm oil production in Indonesia, the top producer, increased to 24.4 million tonnes last year dampened the edible oils market. Production in the South-East Asian nation could rise further this year to 28 million tonnes.

Groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, cotton and palmolein ruled unchanged.

Rapeseed oil increased by Rs 2 for 10 kg.

Thin volume kept sentiment weak.

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 580 for January, super palmolein Rs 600, super deluxe palmolein Rs 620, soyabean refined oil Rs 655 and sunflower refined oil Rs 710. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 578 for January 10, Rs 579 for January 20 and Rs 580 for the whole of January; soyabean refined oil Rs 649 and sunflower refined oil Rs 675 for January.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 578 and Rs 580, super palmolein Rs 620, soyabean refined oil Rs 650 and sunflower refined oil Rs 680. Resellers were quoting palmolein at Rs 572 ex-JNPT.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil declined further by Rs 10 to Rs 1,230 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) by Rs 10 to Rs 780. Soyabean arrivals were 2.25 lakh bags and prices were Rs 3,650-3,850 in Madhya Pradesh and Rs 3,850-3,900 plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 62,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,225-3,600.

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 645/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein January delivery.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil February contracts ended at MYR 2,630 (MYR 2,639), March MYR 2,640 (MYR 2,649) and April at MYR 2,644 (MYR 2,652).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 800 (800), soya refined oil 648 (648), sunflower exp. ref. 630 (630), sunflower ref. 675 (675), rapeseed ref. oil 735 (733), rapeseed expeller ref. 705 (703) cottonseed ref. oil 605 (605) and palmolein 575 (575).

Pepper futures continue to slip on weak global cues



Kochi, Jan. 3: Pepper futures continued to decline on the National Multi Commodity Exchange on reports of overseas markets easing and lower quotes from various origins, including India.

Pepper from the new crop from southern districts of Kerala, Kollam, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta traded at Rs 490-495 a kg.

On the spot, eight tonnes of pepper arrived and 10 tonnes were traded at Rs 501-510 depending upon quality and area of production.

Traders alleged that 200 tonnes of ungraded farm grade pepper, held as hedge in the warehouses by investors,

were released and they were being sold in the market. This has led to a selling pressure in the market, market sources told *Business Line*.

Upcountry demand is met directly by supplies by rail from various centres in Kerala in smaller lots and from inter-State dealers in Tamil Nadu.

On the NMCE, January and February contracts dropped by Rs 58 and Rs 350 respectively to Rs 52,717 and Rs 52,500 a quintal. Turnover moved up by one tonne to 11 tonnes. Net open position remained unchanged at 23 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, January and February contracts remained unchanged at Rs 52,500 and Rs 51,518.

Spot prices were steady at Rs 50,100 (ungarbled) and Rs 52,100 (garbled).

Fall in prices coupled with weakening of the rupee pushed the export price to \$8,600 cf Europe and \$8,850 a tonne cf for the US.

An overseas report today said "we are seeing a wide variance in quotes from Vietnam. With their material ready to be harvested soon, some stockists seem to be selling aggressively."

Prices quoted for various origins (\$/tonne)c&f New York were: Vietnam Asta 8,275- 8,700; Vietnam Asta 7,825 March/April; Brazil Asta 8,100 fob; MG1 Asta 8,275.

Outlook turns bearish for masur, tur on low demand



Indore, Jan. 3: Pulses and pulse seeds ruled flat in Indore mandis on subdued demand. Masur (bold) on Friday was quoted at Rs 4,350, while masur (medium) ruled at Rs 4,000 a quintal. Notwithstanding a lower masur crop estimate, a rally appears unlikely amid pressure from cheap imported masur in mandis, said Babulal Khandelwal, a local

trader.

Slack demand also kept masur dal steady with masur dal (average) being quoted at Rs 4,800-25, while masur dal (medium) was quoted at Rs 4,900-4,925, while masur dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,000-25 respectively.

Moong and its dal ruled firm on improved buying support from millers with moong (best) in local mandis on Friday being quoted at Rs 6,400-6,600, while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 5,500-6,000.

Moong dal (medium) was quoted at Rs 6,900-7,200, moong dal (bold) at Rs 7,300-7,400 (up Rs 200 from last week), while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,300.

Weak arrival and improved buying support lifted urad prices in Indore mandis in the past one week by Rs 50 with urad (bold) being quoted at 4,350-4,400, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,600-3,900.

Urad dal (medium) was being quoted Rs 4,750-4,850 (up Rs 50 from last week), while urad dal (bold) ruled at Rs 4,950-5,050. Urad mongar remained flat at Rs 5,500-5,900.

Tur has been witnessing sluggish trend. Rise in arrival of new tur and weak demand have been causing a downslide in its price, with tur new (Maharashtra) ruling at Rs 4,350, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 3,800-3,900. Tur dal (full) was being quoted at Rs 6,200-6,300, tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 5,800-5,900, while tur dal marka ruled at Rs 6,800-6,900 a quintal.

Upcountry orders lend colour to turmeric



Erode, Jan. 3: Spot turmeric prices increased on Friday on the back of fresh orders from North India.

“Some turmeric exporters and traders have received fresh upcountry demand. So they quoted higher price. The much-expected fresh stock did not arrive on Friday, but traders are confident that the new crop will certainly come up for sale on Monday. In addition to the arrival of medium variety turmeric, some bags of fine variety turmeric were also put up for

sale,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Turmeric arrivals increased to 3,000 bags on Friday and 55 per cent was sold. Spot turmeric prices increased by Rs 150-200 a quintal. Hybrid turmeric prices ruled steady as only medium variety hybrid crop arrived for sale.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,229-6,110 a quintal; the root variety Rs 4,099-5,669.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,669-6,461 and the root variety Rs 4,960-6,015. Of the 832 bags that arrived, only 210 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,199-6,099; the root variety Rs 4,939-5,734. Of the 560 bags on offer, 490 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,199-6,109 and the root variety Rs 4,619-5,788. All the 516 bags found takers.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,359-6,242 and the root variety Rs 4,869-5,569 a quintal. All the 135 bags on offer were sold.

Wheat likely to rule at current levels



Karnal, Jan. 3: Moderate buying kept wheat and flour prices unchanged on Friday.

Steady domestic demand and supply kept wheat and flour prices stable, said market sources.

Satish Kumar, a trader, told *Business Line* that the situation in the market was expected since traders are getting regular and steady demand.

Stocks are also easily available. Any major fluctuation at this time of the year is unlikely; dara and flour prices may continue to rule around current levels even in the coming days, he added.

In the physical market, dara wheat sold at Rs 1,610-15 a quintal.

Around 950 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills.

Mill delivery was at Rs 1,610, while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,615.

A downtrend was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on Friday.

Wheat for January delivery dropped by Rs 4 and traded at 1,683 with an open interest of 3,770 lots. The grain touched a high at Rs 1,686 earlier in the day.

January contracts have some support at Rs 1,681, while resistance is at Rs 1,689.

February contracts traded at Rs 1,675.

According to the trade experts, the futures market may move in a tight range in the coming days.

In the spot market, wheat improved by Rs 20 and traded at Rs 1,570.

Flour Prices

Following steady demand, flour continued to rule flat and sold at Rs 1,850.

Similarly, Chokar was unchanged at Rs 1,500 a quintal.

Business Standard

Cardamom up 0.4% rising demand



Continued its rising streak for the third straight day, [cardamom](#) prices rose by another 0.48% to Rs 693.20 per kg in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions driven by rising demand in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in January added Rs 3.30, or 0.48% to Rs 693.20 per kg in business turnover of 145 lots.

On the similar lines, the spice for delivery in February edged up by 90 paise, or 0.13% to Rs 707.90 per kg in 42 lots.

Analysts said speculators enlarged their positions, supported by rising demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing regions, mainly kept cardamom prices higher for the third day at futures trade.

Turmeric up 2.4% on upsurge in demand



[Turmeric](#) prices moved up by 2.46% to Rs 6,748 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions on upsurge in demand in the spot market.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), turmeric for delivery in May rose by Rs 162, or 2.46%, to Rs 6,748 per quintal with an open interest of 3,230 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in April gained Rs 130, or 1.99%, to Rs 6,650 per quintal in 12,950 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions created by participants following increased demand in the spot market mainly led to rise in turmeric prices at futures trade.

Chana down 0.4% on increased supply



[Chana](#) prices declined by 0.42% to Rs 3,061 per quintal in futures trading today as participants trimmed positions, triggered by increased supplies from producing regions.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in January declined by Rs 13, or 0.42%, to Rs 3,061 per quintal with an open interest of 65,900 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in February traded lower by similar margin to Rs 3,116 per quintal in 58,850 lots.

Analysts said participants trimmed positions, triggered by increased supplies from producing regions against low demand in the spot market mainly weighed on chana prices at futures trade.

Potato up 0.8% as demand rises



Snapping its three-day losing streak, [potato](#) prices recovered by 0.82% to Rs 978.50 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators indulged in creating fresh positions after demand picked up in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato prices for delivery in March recovered by Rs 8, or 0.82%, to Rs 978.50 per quintal in business turnover of 69 lots.

The potato for delivery in April moved up by Rs 7, or 0.73% to Rs 967 per quintal in 16 lots.

Analysts said speculators built up fresh positions driven by surge in demand in the spot market mainly, attributed recovery in potato prices at futures trade.

Coriander up 2% as demand picks up



[Coriander](#) prices gained 2.06% to Rs 8,010 per quintal in futures market today as speculators enlarging their positions, tracking a firm trend at spot market on pick up in demand against tight supply.

At the [National Commodity and Derivative Exchange](#), coriander for delivery in January rose by Rs 162, or 2.06% to Rs 8,010 per quintal with an open interest of 14,330 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in February traded higher by Rs 118, or 1.42% to Rs 8,400 per quintal in 21,190 lots.

Analysts said apart from a firm trend at spot market on pick up in demand, limited arrivals from producing belts, mainly led to rise in coriander prices at futures trade.

Board cuts '13-14 coffee estimate

As expected by the growers and industry, India's post-monsoon [coffee production](#) for 2013-14 crop year has been estimated around 311,500 tonnes, about 10.23 per cent lower than the post-blossom estimates made by the [Coffee Board](#) earlier.

In its post-blossom estimates, the board had projected a record output of 347,000 tonnes. The board has now come out with a revised estimate as the crop was damaged due to heavy rainfall last year in many growing regions. Of the total estimates, the break up for Arabica

and Robusta is 102,000 tonnes and 209,500 tonnes respectively.

Arabica production estimate has shown a decline of 9,000 tonnes (-8.11 per cent) while Robusta declined by 26,500 tonnes (-11.23 per cent) over the post-blossom estimate of 2013-14, the board said on its website. The decline is mainly seen in Karnataka to the tune of 31,415 tonnes (-12.61 per cent) while Kerala has shown a marginal decrease of 3,275 tonnes (-4.64 per cent) compared to the post-blossom estimate.



In Karnataka, Kodagu district experienced a decline of 17,845 tonnes (-13.28 per cent) with Arabica falling -12.55 per cent to 3,025 tonnes and robusta falling -13.43 per cent to 14,820 tonnes, followed by Chikmagalur (8,060 tonnes or -10.26 per cent) and Hassan (5,510 tonnes or -15.25 per cent) over the post-blossom forecast.

"The reasons for the reduction in production estimates is attributed to the long period of drought after the blossom showers, followed by an extremely harsh monsoon. The monsoon, which started on time, continued unabated very heavily with some areas witnessing continuous rainfall for over 60 days," the Coffee Board said.

The continuous showers led to soil saturation and wet feet conditions resulting in defoliation, berry drop and incidences of stalk rot and black rot. Uprooting of shade trees too has been reported. Prior to the onset of the monsoon, there was a heavy proliferation of White Stem Borer because of the long period of drought during April/May, but the subsequent monsoon rains helped prevent the further spread of the pest.

Taking into account these factors, the post-monsoon crop estimates for Karnataka is placed at 217,700 tonnes with a break up of 78,530 tonnes of arabica and 139,170 tonnes of robusta. In Kerala, the adverse effect on the crop due to premature berry drop, stalk rot and black rot diseases due to continuous rains was less prominent overall, but had resulted in a marginal decline in Waynad and Travancore regions over the post-blossom estimates.

Therefore the post-monsoon forecast is placed at 67,275 tonnes (Arabica 2,000 tonnes and Robusta 65,275 tonnes) against the post-blossom estimates of 70,550 MT.

In Tamil Nadu, post-monsoon forecast is placed at 18,875 tonnes as against 19,125 tonnes of post-blossom estimates which is a marginal decrease in production of 250 tonnes mainly observed in Adalur and Bodinayakanur of Pulneys region due to deficit in rainfall.

In Non-Traditional areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and North Eastern Region, the post monsoon forecast is placed at 7,650 tonnes against post blossom estimate of 8,010 tonnes.

Crude palm oil down 0.2% on low demand

[Crude palm oil](#) extended losses for the fourth straight session and prices fell further by 0.29% to Rs 554 per 10 kg in futures trading today due to sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in February shed Rs 1.60, or 0.29% to Rs 554 per 10 kg in business turnover of 24 lots.



Likewise, the oil for delivery in January traded lower by Rs 1.50, or 0.27% to Rs 550.40 per 10 kg in 36 lots.

Analysts said subdued demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position in the physical market mainly kept pressure on crude palm oil prices for the fourth day at futures trade.

