

Farmers seek new wage policy

CUDDALORE, November 27, 2013 - A. Laser, State president of All India Vivasaya Thozhilalargal Sangam and CPI(M) MLA, has urged Tamil Nadu government to implement the new minimum wages policy announced by the Centre without delay.

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday, Mr. Laser said that last September, the Centre had come out with the policy which categorised the districts into "A," "B," and "C" and wages were fixed accordingly: Rs 190, Rs 184 and Rs 182 per day. As of now the maximum wage a beneficiary of rural job scheme could earn is Rs 148 a day. In the given inflationary situation it would not be sufficient to run a family.

Hence, the State government should immediately implement the newly announced minimum wages policy of the Centre.

Mr Laser also noted that owing to various factors such as conversion of farmlands into real estates, bulk acquisition of farmlands by corporates and foreign companies and failure of monsoon, livelihood of as many as 95 lakh farm labourers in Tamil Nadu had become a question mark.

Farmers introduced to commodities market

MADURAI, November 27, 2013 - An awareness programme on 'Commodity Futures Markets and Derivatives' was organised for farmers in the district on Monday.

Speaking about the novel initiative, R. Shankar Narayan, Assistant General Manager of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), said that while the subject was a complicated one, it would enable farmers to sell their produce at good prices and benefit them greatly.

"To participate in the emerging commodity markets for the best returns on their produce, farmers need to organise themselves and aggregate their produce. They also need to be equipped with information about pricing and quality" he said.

Nearly 40 farmers from the district were given an insight into the concept and working of the commodities market. "Farmers should be ready to eventually expand and make a foray into the commodities market. To ensure proper aggregation of produce, proper standardisation and grading have to be followed" said S. Senthil Velan, regional head of the Multi Commodities Exchange (MCX).

He also explained nuances of the market such as buying and selling, margin, arbitrage, delivery, call and put options through a live demonstration of online trading.

A board inside the office of the regulated market at Usilampatti where the meeting took place has a ticker which displays the prices of farm produce according to the MCX rates. The

ticker not only displays the present rates of produce but also approximate prices that the produce can command in the next three months.

“Boards with prices of produce were installed with the aim to equip farmers with knowledge about the current prices before going to the local markets to sell their produce,” said Mr Shankar Narayan. K. Suresh Kumar, vice-president of Agro Food Chamber of Commerce, addressed the farmers on effective storage and marketing.

Farmers’ grievances day meet

PERAMBALUR, November 27, 2013 - The regular farmers grievances day meeting will be held at the collectorate hall here at 10 a.m. on November 28. Darez Ahamed, Collector, will preside over the meeting. An official press release called upon the farmers to participate in the meeting and get their grievances solved.

Exercise NOTA option, farmers tell voters in Yercaud

Take out rally seeking support to boycott the by-election



Garnering support: Members of the Salem – Ulundurpet National Highway 68 Affected Farmers Welfare Association taking out a rally at Vazhapadi in Salem on Tuesday. —PHOTO: P. GOUTHAM

SALEM, November 27, 2013 - When political parties are on a campaign seeking support for their candidate for the Yercaud Assembly by-election, more than 100 farmers went on a door-to-door

campaign urging voters to support them by using the ‘None of the Above’ (NOTA) option available on electronic voting machines.

Members of Salem – Ulundurpet National Highway 68 Affected Farmers Welfare Association led by its president R. Gopalakrishnan went on a two-wheeler rally and campaigned at Vazhapadi, about 30 km. from here, seeking support for their decision to boycott the election.

They claimed that the present AIADMK and the past DMK government failed to provide adequate compensation for the land acquired for the four lane project in spite of Madras High Court’s direction. They said that the farm lands were valued by private engineers and acquired for Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.50 per sq. ft. when the market rate is much higher. They said that the promise made during acquisition that jobs for a member in the family, road tax

exemption, alternative housing plot for demolished houses were still in papers. Hence, wanted the public to support them and exercise the NOTA option in the election. When they were meeting the public near the bus stand, police personnel intercepted them and said they did not obtain permission for their campaign. Mr. Gopalakrishnan alleged that District Electoral Officer and Collector K. Maharabushanam are against us and the Returning Officer failed to meet them thrice. Speaking to reporters, he said that false cases will not deter us from fighting for rights' of farmers and said that if their genuine demands are not met they would boycott Lok Sabha elections also. They were removed by police personnel.

GAIL: farmers appeal to Government

SALEM, November 27, 2013 - The State government is vested with the responsibility of protecting the rights and welfare of farmers and hence it should appeal in the Supreme Court in the GAIL pipeline issue, Federation of Tamil Nadu Agriculturists Association has demanded.

A consultative meeting was held here on Tuesday that passed resolutions stating that farmers' rights should be protected at any cost.

A resolution said that the pipeline would pass through seven districts of the State and hence the livelihood of the farmers would be lost.

"Farmers are confident that the State would go for appeal," the resolution added.

Resolutions also called for permanent sanction against sand mining and strict action against political persons if found distributing cash and gift to woo voters.

Secretary of the association S. Nallasamy participated.

20 delta farmers plan to float FPO

THANJAVUR, November 27, 2013 - Twenty farmers from Cauvery delta have come forward to float a farmer producer organisation (FPO). The proposed FPO to be called 'Delta Mart' plans to take up integrated farming including fisheries and cattle-based products and services.

Such organisations are meant to consolidate land and other resources to make farming sustainable and profitable. FPOs are treated on par with cooperative societies to avail of assistance from the State and the Central government.

Periyar Maniammai University (PMU) has taken up the initiative to promote FPOs in Cauvery delta. The university recently organised a workshop for farmers interested in setting up FPOs.

E. Vadivel, former dean, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), who is currently involved in the promotion of FPOs, and K. Subramanian, District Development Manager, NABARD, Thanjavur, briefed farmers on various aspects of FPOs.

For details, farmers could contact Aruna, CEO, Periyar TBI, on 04362-264520.

Yeddyurappa keen on joining sugarcane farmers' struggle



DETERMINED: The former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa continuing his dharna in the Legislative Assembly in Belgaum for the second day on Tuesday. — PHOTO: D.B. PATIL

BELGAUM, November 27, 2013 - The former Chief Minister and Karnataka Janata Party (KJP) president B.S. Yeddyurappa, on the second day on

Tuesday of his indefinite dharna inside the Legislative Assembly here demanding extension of Shaadi Bhagya scheme to all, expressed the desire to lead the sugarcane farmers' struggle being staged in front of the Suvarna Soudha.

"I am eager to go out of the Assembly Hall and join the farmers who are protesting against the government. But I cannot go there till the government yields to my demand or till I am evicted from the House," Mr. Yeddyurappa told presspersons before the commencement of the session.

Willing to yield

He said that he had told senior Ministers H.K. Patil and T.B. Jayachandra, who called on him urging him to end his protest, that he was willing to withdraw the dharna if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the extension of the scheme, albeit by earmarking a token amount.

Mr. Yeddyurappa held Mr. Siddaramaiah responsible for the stalemate over the issue and said the Chief Minister was sticking to false prestige.

"The Chief Minister could have sent a representative to speak to me or called me over telephone when I was staging dharna in Bangalore. But he tried to ignore me," he said. Stating that the Shaadi Bhagya scheme will in its present form not help even minorities as it had a meagre budget allocation, he demanded that the government take concrete steps for the welfare of minorities instead of showing only lip sympathy.

He accused the Chief Minister of neglecting farmers' problems. "He has been insensitive to the concerns expressed by sugarcane farmers who are staging a protest here. Ideally, he should have come to Belgaum a day before the commencement of the session and sorted out these issues," Mr. Yeddyurappa said.

Other political options

Mr. Yeddyurappa said that he would have made it a point to attend the recent rally addressed by Bharatiya Janata Party prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi in Bangalore if he had been invited. "I would have definitely attended the Modi rally if there were to be an invitation. Of course, I would not have made any speech there. But I would have preferred to attend the rally, especially in view of our letter offering support to the National Democratic Alliance," Mr. Yeddyurappa said.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the NDA not responding to his offer, he hinted that he may explore other political options of joining the third front depending on the situation.

Will blacklist seed company if farmers not compensated: Minister

BELGAUM, November 27, 2013 - Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda said on Monday that the government will not hesitate to blacklist the company that had allegedly supplied spurious Bt cotton seeds under the brand name 'Kanaka' to farmers, if it failed to pay compensation.

Mr. Gowda arrived at the venue of a farmers' rally organised under the banner of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene outside the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, midway through the first day of the winter session here, and said that the government had noticed the "poor quality" of Kanaka brand seeds and sought a scientific report.

A final decision would be taken on initiating appropriate action against the seed company after the report was available. Meanwhile, officials of the department concerned had taken up a survey to assess the loss suffered by the growers, he said.

The Minister also announced that the government had conceded the demands of maize growers and withdrawn the maximum procurement of the crop up to 25 quintals. The government will procure the entire stock of maize brought by farmers to the procurement centres.

The government will also start procurement centres for paddy. Deputy Commissioners in all districts will be told to not limit the procurement, and purchase whatever quantity is brought to these centres by the farmers.

Mr. Gowda said the government had constituted a sub-committee to look into the need of setting up a Permanent Price Fixation Committee for agricultural crops, which would go a long way in giving scientific price for agricultural produce to growers.

Cyclone-hit farmers poorly compensated, APRS leader

GUNTUR, November 27, 2013 - Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangam (APRS) working president K. Ramakrishna said that the State has been pounded by 20 cyclones during the last decade and 'Leher' would be 21st severe cyclone to hit the State.

The cyclones and floods caused severe loss to the farmers but the successive governments have paid only 7 per cent compensation to ryots, he said. The CPI State Secretariat Member, who was here to participate in a round table conference on "Need to protect agriculture sector – Role of political parties and intellectuals", held on Monday, said though the farmers pleaded for a compensation of Rs.45,000 crore, only Rs.7 crore has been paid.

Due to poor assistance from the government, many farmers were leaving agriculture.

According to the records, 75 per cent of the population depended on farming during 1975, but only 52 per cent were dependent on it now, he said.

As regards debts, farmers suffered huge losses due to the calamities. In Andhra Pradesh, 82 per cent farmers were debt-ridden, while it was 79 percent in Tamil Nadu and 68 per cent in Punjab, he said. He added that Government should encourage dairy, poultry, sheep and goat rearing, raising internal and horticulture crops to help the farmers to come out of losses.

Farmers seek help from scientists



Develop new crop varieties which can withstand natural calamities: Collector

Collector S. Suresh Kumar interacting with farmers, at Regional Agricultural Research Station at Lam on Tuesday. — Photo: T. Vijaya Kumar

LAM (GUNTUR DT.), November 27, 2013 - Farmers raising paddy, pulses and horticultural crops appealed to scientists to protect them from the losses

occurring due to the frequent natural calamities.

Farmers from Guntur and Krishna districts participated in a discussion with the scientists organised by Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) of Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University here on Tuesday.

ATMA Project Director A.M. Srilatha said the theme of the programme was “How to get better yield with less investment” and counselled the ryots who were in distress due to crop losses.

Farmers who participated in the discussion urged the scientists to make regular field visits and study the crops affected with diseases and damaged due to floods and advise them on raising alternative crops. A progressive farmer, Udata Srinivas, explained how he raised cluster beans (goru chikkudu) in rabi and got good results. Collector and ATMA Chairman S. Suresh Kumar, who attended the programme, said that farmers expected bumper yield during kharif, but the frequent cyclones had shattered the hopes of ryots. At this juncture, scientists should make efforts to develop new varieties which can withstand calamities, he said.

Water for rabi

With regard to the supply of water for next rabi crop, Mr. Suresh Kumar said the government would give water to Krishna-Guntur delta and the district administration was talking to the irrigation authorities in this regard.

The scientists along with RARS Associate Director of Research Ravuri Veera Raghavaiah and the farmers discussed on the problems on kharif crops, water management and plant protection in view of heavy rains predicted and the varieties to be sown for the next rabi season.

- 📌 **Farmers want suggestions to raise alternative crops that can withstand calamities**
 - 📌 **Collector assures water to farmers of Krishna-Guntur delta for rabi season**
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Workshop for farmers tomorrow

WARANGAL, November 27, 2013 - Noted agricultural scientist Subhash Palekar will train farmers in the district at a three-day workshop from November 28. The workshop is being organised by the Maharshi Goshala Charitable Trust and Kakatiya Foundation at the BGR Gardens in Chinthagattu village. Around 1,200 farmers are expected to attend the workshop, said foundation president N Venugopal Reddy. NABARD chief general manager P. Mohanaiah would deliver keynote address at the inaugural function.

'Set up Agriculture Extension Centre'

The district panchayat councillors have urged the Government to set up a separate Agriculture Extension Centre at Rajakkamangalam for the benefit of farmers who would be able to save time and money instead of going to Ozhuginaserry near Nagercoil to buy certified paddy and other seeds and also coconut saplings.

The district planning committee meeting was held at Nanjl Hall in the Collectorate on Tuesday.

The Councillors demanded the district administration to construct a check dam across the Tamirabarani to operate pleasure boats similar to the boat service offered at Poovar in the neighbouring Kerala. However the Project Director of District Rural Development Agency, Devadoss Ponnihai, said that the officials discussed the matter with the Public Works Department, but the latter ruled out the possibility of operating pleasure boats in the Tamirabarani river by constructing a check dam.

Then the councillors raised a question in connection with converting barren salt pans at Reethapuram near Colachel in to an integrated bus stand. But the officials ruled out the project saying that the salt pans do not belong to the town panchayat.

The councillors also demanded that the farmers be given compensation whose paddy crops, coconuts and other horticultural crops were destroyed by animals like monkeys and wild boars at Villukury and Parasery.

The councillors also demanded the Government to carry out repair works and relay the damaged roads on a war-footing throughout the district.

They also urged the district administration to construct a sanitary complex within the Vadaserry bus stand and to upgrade Kulasekaram Government hospital into a taluk-level hospital.

The chairperson of district panchayat, M.S.Saradamani, councillors, representatives of panchayats, town panchayats and others participated in the meeting.

Agriculture Price Commission by February next: Minister

We are examining all aspects involved, says Krishna Byre Gowda

Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday told the Legislative Council here that the Agriculture Price Commission will be constituted by February next.

Responding to a question from Bharathi Shetty on the delay in establishing the commission as announced in the budget, Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said that “the government is examining all the aspects involved. We are consulting farmers, their representatives and agriculture economists.”

Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said that the draft for the formation of the commission is ready and the Cabinet has decided to form a sub-committee to grant more powers to the commission rather than have one bereft of powers.

Ms. Bharathi Shetty expressed concern over the rising cost of inputs for farmers, particularly small and marginal ones, and said if the commission had been established, it could have gone to their rescue.

The Minister said that the commission would evolve a balanced and integrated price structure for agricultural and horticultural commodities for producers as well as consumers. It would help establishing a well-organised marketing system for handling agricultural commodities and create adequate market infrastructure for storage, transportation and efficient processing. The commission would suggest to the government suitable steps when prices of agricultural produce take a dip.

Mahyco to give relief

To another question by Basavaraja Horatti on the losses suffered by farmers due to substandard Kanaka Bt cotton seeds produced by Mahyco in Dharwad, Gadag and Haveri districts, Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said that a survey is on to ascertain the cause and the extent of damage in these districts as well as in Belgaum district.

The survey, being conducted by teams comprising experts from agriculture universities, seed companies and farmers, would be completed in a fortnight. Thereafter, Mahyco, that produced the cotton seeds, would compensate farmers, the Minister said.

The company, Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said, initially did not own up the responsibility at a meeting called by the principal secretary of his department.

Thereafter, the Minister intervened and warned the company that it would be blacklisted following which it agreed to compensate the farmers.

📌 ***Draft for the formation of the commission ready***

📌 ***Cabinet decides to set up sub-committee to look into it***

TDP president promises to waive agriculture loans



He undertakes gruelling tour of cyclone-hit areas

TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu interacting with paddy farmers affected by Cyclone Helen at Ootada in Yalamanchili mandal of West Godavari district on Tuesday. —Photo: A.V.G. Prasad

NARSAPUR (WEST GODAVARI DIST), November 27, 2013 - TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday batted for waiver of farm loans in the cyclone affected areas in the State.

“It (loan waiver) will be the first file which I will sign soon after swearing in as the Chief Minister, if I come to power in the next elections,” the TDP chief promised while addressing impromptu public gatherings during his whistle-stop visits in the cyclone-ravaged areas in Narsapur, Palacol and Yalamanchili mandals in West Godavari district. The gloom-hit faces of the victims and the flattened paddy fields due to the swirling gales induced by the Cyclone Helen greeted Mr. Naidu all along his gruelling trip that meandered through the dusty and narrow roads in the countryside.

Blames State

In his hard-hitting speeches, tinged with the election-even politics, the TDP leader sought to portray Chief Minister N. Kirankumar Reddy as a ‘lame duck’ and the ‘most in capable Chief Minister’ he had ever seen.

He even sought to blame the government for allegedly lacking foresight in handling cyclones, resulting in the trail of devastation caused by one calamity after the other in the current year and its alleged miserable failure in completing the delta modernisation project. Had the government ensured timely release of the water from the canals for the kharif in the Krishna and the Godavari delta systems, the agricultural crops and farmers would have been saved from the cyclones, Mr. Chandrababu said.

Even as October and November were prone to cyclones, the paddy harvest was getting delayed up to January due to release of the canal water much behind the schedule in the kharif, he added.

A number of farmers complained to Mr. Chandrababu Naidu about the reported uncertainty over the rabi prospects in the Godavari delta. Chilukuri Anjaneyulu, former leader of the Water Users Association (WUA) at Yalamanchili, interacting with Mr. Naidu, apprehended that the farmers in the delta were likely to forego rabi in view of crop holiday proposed by the administration to facilitate execution of the delta modernisation works.

“We are totally ruined in the kharif. If we lose rabi also, how will we survive,” he questioned. The women folks raised a hue and cry over the devastating impact of mushrooming belt shops (unauthorised liquor outlets) on peace and economy of their families.

Ace to launch four non-agri commodities

MUMBAI, November 27, 2013 - Kotak Mahindra Group-anchored Ace Derivatives and Commodity Exchange on Tuesday said it will launch futures contracts in four non-agri commodities — gold, silver, copper and crude oil on Wednesday. Currently, the exchange offers futures trading largely in agricultural items such as chana, sugar, cotton, guar seed and oilseeds and edible oils. The exchange is offering two futures contracts in gold, silver and copper, while four contracts in crude oil.

Milk procurement prices hiked

HYDERABAD, November 27, 2013 - MILK PROCUREMENT PRICE HIKED

The APDDCFL has increased the milk procurement price with effect from December 1. APDDCFL MD and Vice-Chairman Mohammed Ali Rafath said the purchase price was increased by Rs.5 per kg fat for buffalo milk and Rs.2 to Rs.5 per kg total solids of cow milk over the existing purchase price.

NCDEX re-launches crude palm oil futures

MUMBAI, November 27, 2013 - Agri-commodity bourse NCDEX, on Tuesday, re-launched crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts. To begin with, the exchange has launched four CPO contracts. Each contract will expire in December 2013, January, February and March of 2014, NCDEX said in a statement. The contracts are made available for trading from Tuesday onwards. An investor can trade in CPO futures on the exchange platform up to 10 tonnes and take delivery of the commodity from Kandla in Gujarat, it said. The re—launch of CPO completes the basket of oil and oilseeds futures on NCDEX platform, the exchange added.

Dharwad gets Rs. 31.65 cr. for crop insurance compensation

HUBLI, November 27, 2013 - Funds to the tune of Rs. 31.65 crore have been released for Dharwad district towards crop insurance compensation for 2012-13.

In a release issued here, BJP State president Pralhad Joshi, MP, said the compensation comes under the national crop insurance scheme for kharif season and climate-based crop insurance for both kharif and rabi season of 2012-13.

Due to delay in releasing compensation, farmers were forced to undergo hardships.

Mr. Joshi had taken up the issue with the Union and State governments and had written to the authorities seeking immediate measures to ensure the farmers would not have to suffer.

Currently, Rs. 15.16 crore towards crop insurance for kharif season for 2012 has been released.

Bank linkage

Mr. Joshi has appealed to farmers who had registered for the crop insurance scheme to avail themselves of the scheme through their banks.

He said in the release that Rs. 16.48 crore had been released for the kharif and rabi season of 2012-13, under the climate-based crop insurance scheme.

Under the national crop insurance scheme of 2012, 34,393 farmers of five taluks of Dharwad district had remitted a premium of Rs. 18.76 crore towards crop insurance of Rs. 70.98 crore. Of them, 21,944 farmers are eligible to get compensation.

Similarly, under the 2012 climate-based crop insurance for kharif season, 38,336 farmers of the district had insured 52,100 hectares for Rs. 74.32 crore, and 38,171 farmers will get a compensation of Rs. 16.35 crore.

In the rabi season of 2012, 619 farmers of Dharwad and Navalgund taluk had paid a premium of Rs. 14.97 crore and 355 farmers will get a compensation of Rs. 12.37 lakh.

District to buy maize from Dec. 1

The district administration has decided to purchase maize at a support price of Rs. 1,310 a quintal from December 1. Procuring centres will be set up at Javagal, Gandasi, Holenarasipur, Arkalgudu, Belur, Channarayapatna and Hassan.

Herbs to the rescue of cattle

ERODE, November 27, 2013 - Oral treatment of cows affected by Foot and Mouth Disease with herbal paste is delivering positive results, according to veterinarians involved in training cattle-rearers on the therapy.

Farmers rearing cows and buffaloes in Nasiyanur, Chithode, and Modakurichi have been made to realise that the cattle affected by the disease despite vaccination could be saved only by feeding the cattle with a paste made of cumin seed, fenugreek, black pepper, turmeric powder, garlic, jaggery, and coconut gratings.

The farmers were trained to make a slimy paste by grinding the ingredients by soaking them in water, and administer it in divided doses. They were advised to mix the last morsel with butter or ghee and smear it in the mouth of the affected cow for quicker healing.

Though the vaccination process commenced during August, a section of farmers did not get their cattle immunised since they did not want their cows to fall ill for a day or two.

But, they offered to vaccinate their cattle only after symptoms showed up. That is the reason the vaccination did not work in some cases. However, the farmers were now cooperating well with the Animal Husbandry Department to carry out the process of herbal remedy, said Yasodhai, Head, Veterinary University Training and Research Centre (VUTRC), Erode. The farmers were exposed to this remedy by N. Punniamurthy of VUTRC, Thanjavur, an expert in herbal therapy.

Prof. Punniamurthy had recommended treatment of foot lesions by applying a paste made of gingelly oil, garlic, turmeric powder, thulasi leaves, kuppaimeni leaves, maruthani leaves, and neem leaves.

Approach veterinary dispensaries, cattle growers told

TUTICORIN, November 27, 2013 - Veterinary Assistant Surgeons Association, Tuticorin organised a technical session on prevention of foot and mouth disease here on Monday evening. P. Rajasekaran, Additional Director of Animal Husbandry, who presided over the session, said adequate measures were being taken to control the outbreak of the disease. Awareness was being created among the villagers to maintain cattle in a healthy environment. He insisted on administering vaccines for cows under the foot and mouth disease control programme being conducted at regular intervals.

He said the cattle owners need not panic and if any symptom of the disease was detected in the animal, they should approach their nearest veterinary dispensaries for assistance.

Drizzling saliva, lameness and sore in the mouth and foot were the symptoms of the disease. The disease would not cause the death of the animal but would affect milk yield and cause abortion in pregnant animals. The conception rate would go down and reproduction efficiency would be affected.

Dean of Veterinary College, Tirunelveli, R. Prathapan, spoke on the recent trends and medical advancements available towards animal care. Joint Director of Animal Husbandry R. Ramasamy said five rounds of vaccination programmes had been conducted in Tuticorin district and the fifth round was conducted last month at all villages across the district. Leftover cases had also been covered. Vigil has been stepped up and volunteers at block level in all villages were involved in spreading awareness about the need to protect cows from such diseases.

During the gram sabha meetings conducted at all village panchayats on November 19, as per directive of Collector M. Ravikumar, the cattle growers had been asked to approach the

veterinary dispensaries immediately if the animal was diagnosed with foot and mouth disease, Dr. Ramasamy said. Earlier, Dr. Rajasekaran along with veterinary doctors visited the fields in Srivaikuntam and Karungulam blocks and interacted with the villagers. The Collector ruled out any outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the district and teams had been inspecting the villages at regular intervals. Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, M.A. Johnson Charles and A. Josephraj, Assistant Director of Animal Disease Intelligence Unit, D. Nandagopal and others attended.

Compensation sought for cattle loss

CUDDALORE, November 27, 2013 - With foot-and-mouth disease taking a toll on cattle in the State, a demand seeking compensation to cattle owners has been made from various quarters.

A. Laser, MLA and State president of All India Vivasaya Thozhilalar Sangam, told reporters here on Tuesday that cattle were the source of supplementary income to small and marginal farmers.

During drought, the farmers invariably depend on cattle for frugal income. However, of late, they were losing the animals to the disease, throwing their livelihood in disarray. Hence, the State government should give suitable compensation to those whose cattle died of the disease, Mr. Laser said.

A similar demand has also come from State president of Indian Union Muslim League K.M. Khader Mohideen.

At Lalpet, the IUML leader told reporters that as farmers deserved compensation for their crops damaged by either by drought or flood, those who lost their cattle to the disease should also be suitably compensated.

Meanwhile, the Animal Husbandry Department has intensified its efforts to combat the disease. Veterinarians have spread out to villages to administer antibiotics to affected animals and create awareness among owners of the necessity to spray sodium carbonate solution on animals and bleaching powder in and around cattle sheds.

Panchayat presidents are allocating funds from local bodies for procuring sodium carbonate and bleaching powder.

Veterinarians have spread out to villages to administer antibiotics to affected animals

Cong stages demo for fishermen schemes

PUDUCHERRY, November 27, 2013 - Cadre of Pradesh Congress Committee on Tuesday staged demonstration in front of the office of Fisheries Department, demanding the implementation of policies and programmes framed by the erstwhile Congress government for the welfare of fishermen. The demo was organised by the Youth Congress wing of PCC.

A.V. Subramanian, president, PCC, V. Vaithilingam, former Chief Minister, and Ilayaraja, president, Youth Congress, participated.

Raising slogans against the government, the protestors said that it had not properly implemented most of the schemes brought by the erstwhile Congress government. Though the Centre sanctioned a Fishermen Development Organisation, it was yet to be started. -

Special Correspondent

Aquaculture project launched to boost fish production

An open sea cage aquaculture project under the Department of Fisheries, Goa was launched in the coastal villages of Talpona and Polem in Canacona in south Goa on Monday.

The State Fisheries has embarked on this venture with technical know-how provided by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Karwar, Research Centre (ICAR) and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture, Mandepan, to increase production of fish which is found to be depleting.

Open-pen sea cage aquaculture is the farming of fish by enclosing them in cages or pens which are anchored or moored in natural waterways with a depth of 10 metres during low tide.

Juveniles are sourced from hatcheries – protected from predators and fed regularly and is one of the more contentious methods of aquaculture, said an official of Goa Fisheries.

Enclosures

The cage is of 6 x 6 metres requiring an investment of Rs. 2 lakh per cage with 100 percent subsidy provided by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Currently, 25 enclosures each were provided to fishermen of Talpona and Polem as identified by their respective co-operative society.

The fish are kept in these pens until they reach marketable size, after which they are harvested. The normal window period is six to nine months.

Cobia (Modso) and Pompiana (American Pomfret) can fetch a price of Rs. 250 per kg, while Lates (Chonnak) can fetch a price of Rs. 400 per kg, the fisheries department officials said.

'Use the scheme well'

Goa Fisheries Minister Avertano Furtado has urged upon the fishermen of Goa to take benefit of this scheme to boost fish production. On his part, he has assured to look into difficulties faced by the fishermen and work on mitigating their sufferings.

Phillipose, Scientist-in-charge, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Karwar Research Centre gave a detailed report on the various modalities and techniques used for open sea cage aquaculture, which can make the venture successful and profitable.

Sharmila Monteiro, Director of Fisheries was present on the occasion.

☞ ***Open-pen sea cage aquaculture encloses fish in pens in natural waterways during low tide***

☞ ***The fish are kept in these pens until they reach marketable size, after which they are harvested***

Is Bt cotton losing quality?

Inconsistent quality parameters worry processing industries



Assessing quality: A farmer checking cotton for its colour in his field in Jainad mandal on Tuesday. -PHOTO: BY ARRANGEMENT

ADILABAD, November 27, 2013 - Is Bt cotton gradually losing on grade or quality or is it just susceptible to the ill-effects of mono cropping and vagaries of weather like any other crop?

The question is haunting the cotton processing industries in Adilabad as they have noticed changes in certain aspects related to its grade over the last few years.

However, they did not deny the possibility of climatic variation in the successive years affecting the quality of

the produce.

The cotton produced in the black cotton soils of the district, including the non Bt varieties, was once reputed for its strong and robust fibre, besides the staple length of a minimum 33 mm. The oil content in cotton seed also used to be around 20 per cent, among the highest in the country.

However, the processing industries are now worried over the deterioration of the quality.

Quality measures

"We have observed a slow deterioration in characters of Bt cotton. Its micronaire value is constantly on the decline," says Pradeep Kotgirwar, a cotton trader, hinting towards the possible inherent weakness of the Bt variety.

"The average staple length of cotton was 28 mm to 29 mm last year, though this year it is 30 mm. The micronaire value last year was 3.1 while it has improved to 4 this year," reveals S. Swamy of a private cotton testing laboratory in Adilabad.

"The strength of the fibre is 23 grams per tex but the colour grade of cotton leaves much scope at 31 CG against the ideal of 21 CG," he adds.

"These changes could also occur because of the adverse climatic conditions," opines Principal Scientist B. Satish Chandra of the Agriculture Research Station, Adilabad.

"We are also experiencing stunted growth of cotton plants and a delay in bursting of bolls owing to the excessive rainfall and reddish wilt owing to cold," he says.

"We are now extracting only 9.5 per cent oil from cotton seed instead of the standard 13 per cent. The soap stock by product has also doubled from the standard 10 per cent to 20 per cent," discloses Gopal Tulsyan, owner of a cotton seed crushing unit. However, he supports the contention of Bt cotton being prone to change in nature, which has commercial repercussions.

Wholesale egg rate crosses Rs. 4

NAMAKKAL, November 27, 2013 - The wholesale price of egg in Namakkal Zone crossed the Rs. 4 mark for the first time on November 25, Monday, when it was fixed at Rs. 4.03 by the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) here.

Sabarimala season

The price was hiked despite the drop in demand for egg in Tamil Nadu and Kerala due to the Sabarimala season.

On November 12, the price of egg was Rs. 3.90.

Subsequently, it increased to Rs. 3.96 (November 14), Rs. 3.98 (November 22).

The reason behind the hike was attributed to the demand for egg in North India – that resulted in price hike of the commodity in many zones across the country.

“Of the daily production in this region that is little more than three crore eggs, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the major markets. About 25 to 30 lakh eggs are supplied to Bangalore while an average 10 to 20 lakh eggs are supplied to Mumbai everyday”, says egg trader V. Kumar. He added that consumption of eggs has dropped by 20 per cent (45 lakh eggs) in Tamil Nadu and in Kerala due to the Sabarimala season. But it has not stopped the wholesale price of egg from soaring higher because of the demand for egg in the Northern States. This is due to the freezing temperature and continuous rain lashing those states,” claims G. Ravi Kumar, farmer and trader.

Surplus eggs

According to egg traders, the surplus 45 lakh eggs are supplied to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and New Delhi.

Water levels

Water level in the **Periyar dam** was 118.70 feet with an inflow of 1753 cusecs and a discharge of 467 cusecs.

The level in the Vaigai dam was 45.37 feet with an inflow of 607 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs.

The combined storage in Periyar credit was 3,094 mcft.

There was no rainfall recorded in the region during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, PWD Officials said.

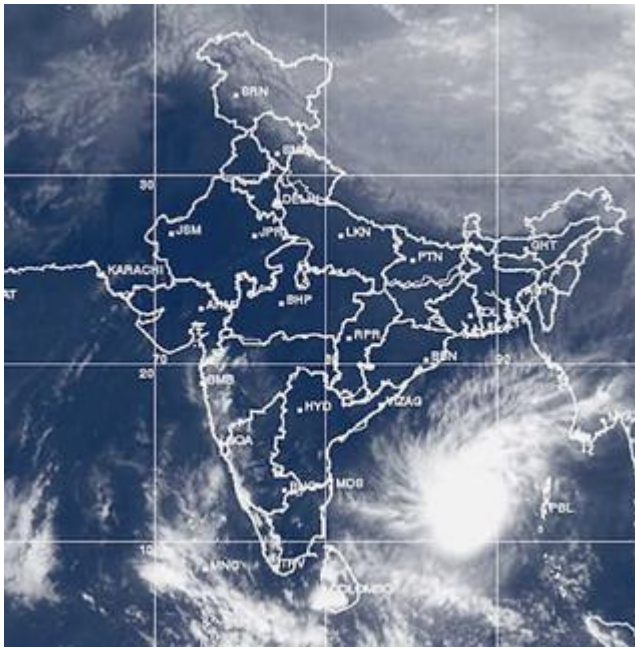
The water level in the **Mettur dam** stood at 85.09 feet on Tuesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 13,937 cusecs and the discharge 5,003 cusecs.

Water level in the **Papanasam dam** on Tuesday stood at 96.20 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 641.95 cusecs and 602.25 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in **Manimuthar dam** stood at 69.85 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 135 cusecs and 35 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari - The water level in **Pechipparai dam** stood at 26.55 feet, 61 feet in Perunchani, 11.97 feet in Chittar 1, 12.07 feet in Chittar 11, 4.20 feet in Poigai , 47.57 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru and 18 feet in Mukkadal dam.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on November 26th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	28	16	0	53
New Delhi (Sfd)	29	15	0	73
Chandigarh	28	13	0	43
Hissar	29	11	0	10
Bhuntar	25	4	0	26
Shimla	20	9	0	80
Jammu	26	11	0	140
Srinagar	18	0	0	23
Amritsar	27	10	0	100
Patiala	29	15	0	11
Jaipur	30	14	0	5
Udaipur	28	11	0	55
Allahabad	29	14	0	301
Lucknow	28	10	0	42
Varanasi	29	14	0	141
Dehradun	26	10	0	48
Agartala	29	15	0	190
Ahmedabad	36	17	0	62
Bangalore	29	19	2	244
Bhubaneshwar	30	16	0	674

Bhopal	30	12	0	26
Chennai	31	23	0	360
Guwahati	29	12	0	215
Hyderabad	31	21	0	248
Kolkata	28	17	0	530
Mumbai	32	25	0	72
Nagpur	31	16	0	169
Patna	26	13	0	194
Pune	33	21	13	38
Thiruvananthapuram	33	23	62	455
Imphal	27	8	0	69
Shillong	19	8	0	77

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace)

MAINLY DRY WEATHER

Rainfall: Weather was dry over the region.

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE : The minimum temperatures fell in Jammu and Kashmir and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably above normal in Haryana and Punjab, above normal in Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 06.5°C recorded at Nazibabad (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 29th NOVEMBER 2013: Weather would be mainly dry over the region. Fall in minimum temperatures by 02- 03°C would occur over the region.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 29th NOVEMBER 2013: Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov 27

Max 31° | Min 23°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:13

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1011

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Nov 28

Max 32° | Min 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday
Nov 29



32° | 24°

Partly Cloudy

Saturday
Nov 30



28° | 22°

Cloudy

Sunday
Dec 1



26° | 24°

Cloudy

Monday
Dec 2



27° | 24°

Overcast

Tuesday
Dec 3



27° | 25°

Overcast

Kerala hills sitting on a green volcano

Thiruvananthapuram, November 27, 2013

In the sweltering sun a group of school children are sitting on dharna in the heart of Idukki town, 300 km from Thiruvananthapuram, raising slogans. A few metres away farmers are on a 48-hour fast. The Kerala hills are on the boil because people fear they will be thrown out of their land once the state government implements the Kasturirangan panel report on measures to protect the ecologically sensitive areas of the Western Ghats.

Political parties and the Catholic church are in a race to whip up passions. "Kerala will be another Kashmir," thundered Idukki archbishop Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil. And Thamarasserry bishop Mar Inchananayil went a step further. "Jallianwalla Bagh will be repeated here." Kannur MP K Sudhakaran of the Congress has threatened to resign if the farmers are displaced. And ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) chief whip PC George wants to behead officials who dislocate farmers.

Last year, the Union environment ministry had set up an expert panel under Madhav Gadgil, following an uproar that the Western Ghats, a UNESCO world heritage site, is shrinking alarmingly due to human interference. When all six states opposed the Gadgil panel

recommendations vehemently, another committee was constituted under former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan. The Kasturirangan panel had made some changes in the zonal classification and reduced the ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) to 37% from the 64% estimated by Gadgil.

The majority of the ESAs are inhabited by Christians. “No serious effort has been made to dispel our fears. We are not against protecting the environment but it should not be at the expense of poor people who settled there long ago,” said the Idukki bishop.

The state had witnessed a complete shutdown last Monday and violent clashes are now a matter of routine in the hills. The worried UDF government is in a hurry to distribute a Malayalam translation of the report to dispel their fears. But it hasn't achieved the desired results.

Though chief minister Oommen Chandy has

reiterated that his government would not evict a single person, his pleas fell on deaf ears.

The Kerala high court, hearing a PIL recently, also wanted to know whether those on strike had read the report and what they achieved by calling frequent shutdowns.

Though the Kasturirangan report is a toned-down version of the Madhav Gadgil committee report, it does not mention anywhere that farmers and other settlers would be evicted from the fringe areas of the forests. Rather, it recommends severe restrictions on mindless quarrying, deforestation and mining to save the ecologically sensitive biodiversity hotspots. And these areas cannot have buildings and constructions exceeding 20,000 square feet in area or industries and big townships. But all of this has failed to convince agitating residents, who see it as a ploy to evict them. Political parties and church outfits have fuelled the fire. “What the state is witnessing is organised muscle-flexing to loot natural resources. It is sad that responsible political parties and religious outfits are playing into the hands of the quarry and real estate mafias,” said green activist John Peruvanantham.

ECOLOGICAL TREASURE



■ Kasturirangan report: Western Ghats simmering. HT FILE

- Western Ghats constitute a mountain range of 60,000 sq km in six states – Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It is one of the 10 biodiversity hotspots in the world
- In 2012 Unesco included it in the list of world heritage sites. Alarming deforestation of the ghats forced the government to sit up and take notice
- In 2012 the Western Ghats panel was formed under environmental expert Madhav Gadgil. But all six states opposed his proposals
- Soon after, another committee under former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan was set up. The report reduced ecologically sensitive areas to 37% from the 64% estimated by the Gadgil panel

For the CPI(M), which wants to curry favour with the church, which always supported the Congress-led dispensation, it turned out to be a golden opportunity. With the general elections round the corner, it wants to exploit it. And the Congress has advised its leaders not to lock horns with religious leaders over the issue.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Science Centre to get aquatic plants fish pond

HUBLI: An [aquatic plants fish pond](#) will come up at Dharwad Regional Science Centre of Karnatak University, Dharwad (KUD).

Work on the pond, estimated to cost Rs 10 lakh, has already begun.

Speaking to TOI, U S Raikar, executive officer, Regional Science Centre, KUD, said: "We have the rain harvesting point on our premises and we have converted it to an aquatic plants fish pond. It will help research students of botany and zoology study aquatic plants as well as fishes which live with aquatic plants in a pond."

The fisheries department in Karwar and Ankola have been contacted for various species of fishes for the pond. The centre will build a glass chamber in the middle of the pond.

Dried bamboo groves in tiger sanctuaries worrying forest officials

MYSORE: Come summer, forest fires are a common phenomenon, particularly in the three [tigers sanctuaries](#) located in Mysore and Chamarajnagar districts. But worrying issue is the [bamboo groves](#) dotting these sanctuaries which have grown and dried up .

As per the experts bamboo groves have a life of forty years and after this the grown up grass will either wither away or felled to give way for the new bamboo grass to rejuvenate afresh. It is said that all the bamboo groves which dot the Bandipur, Nagarhole and BRT hill tiger sanctuaries were planted in early seventies before the tiger sanctuaries came into existence.

According to an official source the bamboo grass was planted on a large scale in 1972- 73 with an intention to maintain fodder supply to the elephants in addition to maintain flow of

bamboo to government run Bhadaravthi paper mills. But coming into existence of tiger sanctuaries prevented the tiger sanctuaries authorities from cutting the bamboo with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) strictly banning felling of trees or any kind of harvesting of the grass or other tree species. "We cannot even cut a blade of grass in tiger sanctuaries" pointed out H C Kantaraju the Conservator of Bandipur Tiger Sanctuary disclosing the strict ban on any kind of anti-afforestation activity in the sanctuaries.

According to officials of tiger sanctuaries bamboo groves which have grown up occupy more than 20% of the project tiger area in the state and they have to be destroyed and made to decay to prevent the forest fires. Even environmentalists are seeking destruction of these bamboo groves or fell them to avoid forest fire. "Situation is grim on this score in the tiger sanctuaries with bamboo groves, particularly the roadside groves being more vulnerable as any miscreant throwing a matchstick or cigar butt will set the whole sanctuary on fire posing danger to the life of many animals" Badrinath and Vinod wild life lovers and frequent visitors to the sanctuaries disclosed adding that authorities should seek a special permission to remove the groves before the onset of summer.

However, Kantharaju said bamboo groves are aged and now they are decaying. Last year bamboo groves were vulnerable spots and "we were on high alert, but this year decaying of bamboo has set in and in the final stage of turning itself into a dust to mix the soil, he said and added: there is no problem on this score as all the groves will get decayed by January-February.



AP dairy's milk buying price hiked

The AP Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Limited (APDDCFL) has increased the purchased price of buffalo milk and total solids of cow milk from December 1.

The purchase price has been increased by Rs 5 per kg fat for buffalo milk and Rs 2 to Rs 5 per kg total solids of cow milk.

The decision was taken to safeguard the interests of farmers in rural areas who are dependent on dairy for livelihood in view of increased cost of various inputs like labour, feed, ingredients and fodder.

VeggieKart: Order vegetables online



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagging off VeggieKart, a door to door vegetable vending system, initiated by State Agricultural Department in association with VeggieKart Marketing Private Limited, in Bhubaneswar on Monday | Express Photo

People in Odisha can now order fresh vegetables online as the State Agriculture department in association with VeggieKart Marketing on Monday launched a portal and a distribution system for the same.

VeggieKart is the online vegetable purchasing platform wherein consumers can order vegetables online. The Veggie Wheel is the distribution retail chain which will engage the urban poor and unemployed youth for the distribution of vegetables.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagged off the innovative VeggieKart and launched an online portal at a ceremony here.

VeggieKart Marketing Pvt Ltd, an initiative by eKutir Rural Management Services, along with promoters MGM Agriventures, is taking a pioneer step in this sector by starting a vegetable marketing initiative under the brand names 'Veggie Kart,' 'Veggie Wheel,' 'Veggie Mart' and 'Veggie Lite.'

The objective of this initiative is to develop a symbiotic relationship between the consumers and farmers, wherein the consumers will get good quality vegetables and fruits and there will be a rise in the overall income of farmers. Officials said the new system will completely eliminate the role of middlemen from the value chain.

Further, it also aims at organising the otherwise disorganised sector of vegetable selling by bringing in the sellers under the brand banner of Veggie Kart, which in turn will help these sellers to increase their sales.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen said that the State Government has given priority to minimising vegetable wastage.

Agriculture Minister Debi Prasad Mishra said that a value chain was created for the service wherein the farmers will be given the right price for the produce and the customers will be provided vegetables at regulated market price. The services of VeggieKart will be spread to more districts in future which include Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Nayagarh.

Naveen launched about 15 carts and the numbers will increase to 150 in the next five months. Agriculture department Principal Secretary Rajesh Verma, MP Prasanna Patasani, MLA Ashok Panda, MLA Bhagirathi Badajena, MLA Bijay Mohanty and VeggieKart Marketing Private Limited COO AP Mishra were present at the event.

Business Standard

Retailers keep potato prices up on high demand, costs

Demand is up due to a lot of substitution taking place in consumption basket of households as vegetable prices have increased sharply



[Retailers](#) kept [potato prices](#) up despite little volatility in the wholesale markets in the last month. A rise in demand due to substitution of costlier green, leafy [vegetables](#) with potato in the consumer basket was cited as a reason. The other were transportation and labour costs borne by the retailers.

While price in Delhi declined 35 per cent in the wholesale market to Rs 12.5 a kg on November 25 from Rs 19.4 a kg on November 1, retailers continued to sell it at Rs 28 a kg.

The West Bengal government's decision to restrict supplies outside the state caused price decline in Kolkata to Rs 13 a kg, the lowest retail price in India. But, the move made potato costlier in Bihar where the price has shot up 50 per cent this month.

In Mumbai, potato is selling in the retail market at Rs 28-30 a kg (the food ministry quotes it at Rs 24 a kg), a wide margin from the wholesale price of Rs 18-20 a kg quoted in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee ([APMC](#)), Vashi, the sole market feeding potato to Mumbai.

“With no massive wastage in potato, unlike green and leafy vegetables, Rs 10 a kg higher retail price is unjustified. Potato should have been sold in the retail market with a nominal margin, given the transportation and labour cost over and above the wholesale price,” said R P Gupta, director, National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation ([NHRDF](#)). In most markets away from the mandis, the retailers bear the costs of transportation and labour.

RETAIL MARKET STRAYS FROM WHOLESALE

Potato price movement (₹/kg)

Market	Wholesale			Retail		
	Nov 1	Nov 25	Change (%)	Nov 1	Nov 25	Change (%)
Agra	8.00	18.00	125.00	12.00	23.00	91.67
Delhi	19.38	12.50	-35.50	28.00	28.00	0.00
Rajkot	19.05	21.25	11.55	21.00	24.00	14.29
Bhopal*	12.00	15.00	25.00	14.00	20.00	42.86
Mumbai	16.50	18.50	12.12	26.00	24.00	-7.69
Jaipur	9.00	10.00	11.11	18.00	18.00	0.00
Patna	13.00	20.00	53.85	15.00	22.00	46.67
Bhubaneswar	16.00	13.50	-15.63	18.00	17.00	-5.55
Kolkata	12.00	-	-	15.00	13.00	-13.33

*Price on November 22

Source: Ministry of Food

Ashok Walunj, director (onions and potatoes) of APMC, Vashi, however, justifies a high margin.

“With high labour and transportation costs, the Rs 20 a kg potato becomes costlier Rs 5 a kg. Considering the high cost of infrastructure and margins, the retailers cannot sell below Rs 30 a kg. Hence, the Rs 8-10 a kg difference is normal.”

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, CARE Ratings, looks at it as more a demand-supply mismatch, with some speculation and hoarding. “Demand is up due to a lot of substitution taking place. Add to this a shortage in supply, with crop in the south affected by rains. At this stage, speculators with holding power have blocked the transmission chain.”

While the government holds control on the wholesale markets, the retail ones remain out of control. Gupta had advised the government to come up with market intervention policies to be assigned to regional or national co-operatives. The proposal was rejected by Virendra Singh, chairman, National Co-operative Consumers’ Federation of India, under the food ministry. The body has 135 state co-operatives that run their own retail outlets. “We cannot intervene in the market with fixed retail prices without the government’s approval, as profit would remain with the co-operative while the loss would be borne by the government.”

Onion prices on a downward trail

Prices fall to Rs 30-40 a kg in retail as wholesale prices cool off



With arrivals from major growing regions increasing, [onion prices](#) have recorded a steady decline. In wholesale markets, prices have fallen to Rs 23-25 a kg, while prices in retail markets were Rs 30-40 a kg.

“We are seeing fresh arrivals from Saurashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Arrivals will continue to rise till the next fortnight; so, we see a further fall,” said an

official at Ahmedabad’s Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Sardar Patel Market.

In the beginning of this week, arrivals were 11,000-14,000 quintals.

During this, wholesale prices have fallen from Rs 3,201 to Rs 2,350 a quintal at the [Lasalgaon](#) market. This week, prices fell to a low of Rs 900 a quintal in the Lasalgaon market.

“In the retail market, prices are Rs 30-40 a kg; wholesale prices have fallen,” said a [Nashik](#)-based trader. In Delhi, wholesale prices fell to Rs 1,100 a quintal, with arrivals at 15,500 quintals on Tuesday. Experts feel once wholesale prices stabilise at low levels, retail prices will fall below Rs 20 a kg.

Earlier, prices had surged to a record of Rs 6,000 a quintal in the Lasalgaon market.

In the retail market, prices had hit Rs 100 a kg in a few urban pockets. The government had to intervene: The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India had issued tenders to import at the end of August. However, even after imports of 400 tonnes, prices didn't fall.

On the improvement in the situation, R P Gupta, director, National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation, had said, “Arrivals have increased and we see more [supply](#) from the growing regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This will bring down prices in wholesale markets below Rs 20 a kg.”

Sugar down 1% on ample supply, subdued demand

Sweetener for delivery in January lost 0.87%



[Sugar](#) prices fell by 1.02% to Rs 2,828 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators reduced their positions, triggered by higher supplies in the physical market against subdued demand.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in December month fell by Rs 29, or 1.02% to Rs 2,828 per quintal with an open interest of

11,990 lots.

Likewise, the sweetener for delivery in January lost Rs 25, or 0.87% to Rs 2,833 per quintal in 20,650 lots.

Analysts said lightening of positions by speculators amid higher supplies in the physical market against subdued demand mainly kept pressure on sugar prices at futures trade.

NCDEX relaunches crude palm oil futures



Exchange has launched four CPO contracts

Leading agri-commodity bourse [NCDEX](#) today re-launched [crude palm oil](#) (CPO) futures contract.

To begin with, the exchange has launched four CPO contracts. Each contract will expire in December 2013, January, February and March of 2014, NCDEX said in a statement.

The contracts are made available for trading from today onwards. An investor can trade in a CPO futures on the exchange platform up to 10 tonnes and take delivery of the commodity from Kandla in Gujarat, it said.

Speaking on the launch, NCDEX Managing Director In-Charge [Samir Shah](#) said: "With the relaunch of the NCDEX crude palm oil contract, we are offering a single platform to the edible oil industry to hedge its price risk on all edible oils".

Palm oil is now the major edible oil consumed in India with market share of 46%. India consumes about 90-92 lakh tonnes of palm oil every year, he said.

The re-launch of CPO completes the basket of oil and oilseeds futures on NCDEX platform, the exchange added.

Coriander gains by 1.8% on spot demand



Speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in the spot markets

[Coriander prices](#) rose by 1.83% to Rs 7,685 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in the spot markets.

At the [National Commodity and Derivative Exchange](#), coriander for January delivery gained Rs 138, or 1.83%, to Rs 7,685 per quintal with an open interest of 8,410 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 132, or 1.80%, to Rs 7,484 per quintal, with an open interest of 27,520 lots.

Market analysts said increased buying by speculators on pick up in spot market demand against restricted arrivals from producing belts mainly influenced coriander prices to rise in futures trade.

Chana down by 0.5% on profit booking

Commodity for December delivery fell by 0.48%



[Chana](#) prices fell by 0.53% to Rs 3,178 per quintal in futures trade today on profit booking by speculators due to sluggish demand in the spot market.

Weak demand in the local market, sufficient stocks and favourable weather for sowing also put pressure on the prices.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for January declined by Rs 17, or 0.53%, to Rs 3,178 per quintal with an open interest for 53,710 lots.

Similarly, chana for December delivery fell by Rs 15, or 0.48% to Rs 3,084 per quintal with an open interest of 84,310 lots.

Traders said sluggish demand in the domestic market at existing higher prices and increased arrivals from Rajasthan mainly led to the fall in chana futures prices.

Crude palm oil down 0.4% on profit booking

Oil for delivery in November traded lower by 0.2%



[Crude palm oil](#) prices fell by Rs 2.40 to Rs 568.50 per 10 kg in futures trade today as profit booking by speculators on weak spot market trend.

Further, a weak trend in overseas market also fuelled the downtrend in crude palm oil futures.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for December delivery declined by Rs 2.40, or 0.42%, to Rs 568.50 per 10 kg with a business turnover of 46 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in November traded a shade lower at Rs 568.60 per 10 kg a loss of Rs 1.30, or 0.22%, with a business turnover of 9 lots.

Traders said besides profit taking by speculators on subdued domestic demand, a weak overseas trend led to a fall in crude palm oil prices in futures market.

Globally, the oil slid 0.50% to \$817 a metric tonne on the [Malaysia Derivatives Exchange](#).

Cardamom down 1.2% on profit booking



Spice for delivery in January month fell by 1.09%

[Cardamom](#) futures prices fell by Rs 8.80 to Rs 707.20 per kg today, as traders reduced their holdings amid sluggish spot demand.

Besides, sufficient stocks holdings in the physical market also influenced the cardamom prices.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for December contract declined by Rs 8.80, or 1.22%, to Rs 707.20 per kg with a business turnover of 551 lots.

The spice for delivery in January month fell by Rs 8.20, or 1.09%, to Rs 738.10 per kg with a trading volume of 173 lots.

Marketmen said, besides profit booking by speculators at existing levels, fall in demand in spot market also put pressure on cardamom prices in futures market.

Growth machines



Off to farms: Tractors being transported by a truck on the Bhopal-Indore highway in Madhya Pradesh. Mechanisation is helping rapid growth of agriculture in Madhya Pradesh. The Government says 60,000 tractors were sold in the State last year. — Kamal Narang

Talks to resolve UP sugarcane pricing issue deadlocked

New Delhi, Nov. 26: The deadlock over the sugarcane pricing issue in Uttar Pradesh continues with talks between the State Government and sugar mills ending inconclusive late on Tuesday evening.

The State Chief Secretary will meet the mill representatives again in Lucknow tomorrow to break the logjam.

In a related development, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told a delegation of all parties from Maharashtra that a Ministers' panel will look into the problems of sugarcane growers and the sugar industry.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, who led the sugar industry delegation to meet the Prime Minister, said that the three-member panel, consisting of Sharad Pawar, P. Chidambaram and Ajit Singh, will study the issue and submit a report to the Cabinet soon. The delegation told the Prime Minister that sugarcane crushing has been delayed this season that began in October due to farmers' agitations for higher price. The delegation said the State government had engaged them in consultations at various levels, but it could lead to a serious law and order problem in the State if remedial measures were not taken.

Sudhir Panwar, President of Kisan Jagriti Manch, said that the private sugar mills could dilute their stand if the Uttar Pradesh Government accepts a couple of their demands.

"They are seeking subsidy, bank guarantee, scrapping of entry tax and relief on molasses. The industry is trying to wrest concessions to the tune of Rs 10,000-15,000 crore," he said, adding that the Centre could extend further concessions to the sector.

PTI quoting Food Secretary Sudhir Kumar reported that the Food Ministry will soon seek the Cabinet's nod for providing interest-free loans to sugar mills.

"If banks come forward, we will pay the interest accrued on loans from the Sugar Development Fund. The fund has about Rs 1,200 crore with it," he said.

The pricing issue has taken a violent turn with farmers owing allegiance to the Bharatiya Kisan Union locking up the premises of Bajaj Hindusthan in Noida on Monday. They also locked up an automotive showroom belonging to Uttar Sugar Mills.

According to trade sources, the industry has never witnessed such a scenario before.

"Farmers in Maharashtra are refusing to supply cane demanding higher prices. Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are refusing to start crushing operations demanding rollback of support price. It is total chaos and we expect the issue to go to the Supreme Court," said a trader, adding that some farmers in eastern Uttar Pradesh are selling the cane to jaggery makers at prices ranging between Rs 135 and Rs 200 a quintal.

A petition filed by V.M. Singh, Convener of the Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sanghatan, in the Allahabad High Court demanding that the Uttar Pradesh Government take over sugar mills in the State will come up for hearing on Wednesday.

While farmers in Uttar Pradesh are demanding Rs 300 a quintal against Rs 290 a quintal paid last year, the mills wanted it lowered to Rs 225. Led by the Indian Sugar Mills Association, private mills' apex body, millers say that their units will turn unviable at current prices since they are already making a loss of Rs 4 for every kg of sugar they sell.

Farmers, on the other hand, have been contending that their input costs have gone up, particularly with diesel and labour turning costlier.

Millers are also demanding the implementation of recommendations of the Rangarajan panel, which mooted the industry sharing 70 per cent of the value of sugar and other products, including bagasse, molasses and press mud, with growers.

While the Centre fixes a fair and remunerative price (FRP) that mills have to pay growers, States came up with an advised price higher than FRP. In Uttar Pradesh, the State Advised Price was raised from Rs 125 a quintal in 2007-08 to Rs 280 in 2012-13 by the Mayawati government. This year, the Akhilesh Yadav Government has kept it unchanged following pressure from the mills.

In Maharashtra, too, farmers have been demanding Rs 300 a quintal and refused to supply cane to mills. As a result, only 96 units of the 170 in the State have begun crushing operations.

Cardamom stockists begin building inventories

But prices would hold their own at an average of Rs 600 a kg



Kochi, Nov 26: The cardamom market lost flavour on heavy arrivals last week at the auctions.

Arrival of above 100 tonnes of cardamom at each auction led to emergence of bearish sentiments in the market, market sources told Business Line.

However, stockists are building up inventories as prices are seen cheap currently.

They also see demand emerging for the current wedding season.

Besides, they are also replenishing the stocks that had depleted during Diwali sales.

arrivals to continue

Though arrivals are expected to continue at 100 tonnes at each auction with the beginning of the fourth picking of the crop, traders say that prices would hold their own at an average Rs 600 a kg.

Arrival of 8mm bold capsules has started diminishing as growers and primary market dealers have started holding them back, trade sources said. Exporters are seen active albeit not aggressively. They are reported to have bought an estimated 60 tonnes of exportable variety capsules at Rs 650-700 a kg, they said.

Total arrivals at the Sunday auction of the KCPMC increased to 127 tonnes from 105 tonnes the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, Kumily, said.

He said the maximum price decreased to Rs 859 from Rs 891 a kg and the minimum rose Rs 454 from Rs 370. The auction average fell to Rs 608 from Rs 635 the previous Sunday. However, growers continue to maintain that anything below Rs 750 a kg is not remunerative.

Arrivals in the current season, which began on August 1, have totalled 8,358 tonnes till now against 4,040 tonnes during the same period a year ago.

Sales have totalled 8,179 tonnes against 3,831 tonnes. The weighted average price as on November 24 was around Rs 607.18 a kg against Rs 746.87 a kg as on the same date last year.

“Unusually, heavy arrivals these days are affecting the sieving and processing activities due to limited manpower availability”, market sources said.

Prices of all graded varieties dropped last week on heavy arrivals and their prices in Rs/kg last weekend were: AGEB: 740-750; AGB: 615 -625; AGS: 575-585 ; and AGS-1: 555 - 565.

Weather conditions continue to remain favourable with growing areas receiving showers under the influence of the North-East Monsoon last week.

Groundnut oil prices plunge

Rajkot, Nov. 26: Demand for groundnut oil continues to be slack despite sharp fall in its prices. Though millers have cut prices of the oil sold in loose form over the last one week, retailers are keeping them unchanged. Cotton oil also traded flat on limited buying. Groundnut oil loose declined by Rs 15 to Rs 795-800 for 10 kg, *telia* tin was down by Rs 22 to Rs 1,240-41 for 15 kg and groundnut oil new tin was traded at Rs 1,470-75 for 15 kg. About 10-12 tankers were traded in Saurashtra. Cotton oil wash decreased by Rs 8 to Rs 610-613 for 10 kg. New tin of cotton oil was traded unchanged at Rs 1,120-30 for 15 kg. About 40-50 tankers of cotton oil were traded here. Traders said that retail demand for groundnut oil is limited. A similar trend is seen in cotton oil also. According to millers, availability of raw material for crushing has increased and but demand from stockists and brand manufacturers has declined. Meanwhile, arrival of groundnut has increased to one lakh bags a day in Gujarat. Price of groundnut stood was Rs 625-740 for 20 kg.

Sheet rubber may drop to Rs 150/kg

Kottayam, Nov.26: Spot rubber declined on Tuesday on moderate selling by dealers and growers. The absence of quantity buyers continued to cast shadows on local trading houses. The overall sentiment was led by the sustained weakness in the domestic futures market and uncertainty prevailing in the cash, commodity and stock markets. "We expect sheet rubber to fall below Rs 150 a kg," an observer said. Volumes were dull. Sheet rubber dived to Rs 151 (Rs 153) per kg, according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs 152 (Rs 153.50) and Rs 149 (Rs 150.50) respectively, as reported by the Rubber Board and dealers. The trend was partially mixed. December futures moved down to Rs 151.64 (Rs 152.53), January to Rs 153.39 (Rs 154.24) and February to Rs 156.25 (Rs 157.13) while the March and April futures were inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) closed weak at Rs 155.48 (Rs 157.17) at Bangkok. December futures closed ¥ 253.4 (Rs 156.07) from ¥ 253.9 on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. **Spot rubber rates Rs/kg** were: RSS-4: 151 (153); RSS-5: 142 (143.50); Ungraded: 138 (139); ISNR 20: 145 (146.50) and Latex 60%: 105 (105).

Global black tea output up 8.52%

Coonoor, Nov. 26: The global black tea production has increased by 8.52 per cent in the first 10 months of the calendar year compared with the same period a year ago, reveals our analysis of the latest data available with the Tea Board and traders' organisations.

"According to our compilation, global black tea output has increased to 1,649 million kg (mkg) from 1,520 mkg last year," Rajesh Gupta, publisher of *Global Tea Digest*, told *Business Line*.

This increase of 129 mkg marks a growth of 8.52 per cent.

Production has increased in all countries except Uganda where a 1.10 mkg fall has been reported till October.

The biggest increase of 62.28 mkg has happened in Kenya with production totalling 310 mkg so far.

India has reported 53.61 mkg increase to 861.57 mkg.

Till October, Sri Lanka produced 8.30 mkg more to total 278.25 mkg. Malawi produced 39.55 mkg, up 2.64 mkg.

Bangladesh's output rose by 1.61 mkg to 51.06 mkg.

The excess availability of 129 mkg compared with last year has created a situation of too much tea chasing too few buyers.

Consequently, importers are choosy as they can pick up tea from various sources, lowering demand.

Prices have currently crashed to Rs 77 a kg, down Rs 12 over last year, at Coonoor tea auctions.

Ample supplies dissolve sugar



Mumbai, Nov. 26: Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale spot market dropped further by Rs 6 for S-grade and improved by Rs 4 for M-grade. Activities were routine on Tuesday.

However, prices declined by Rs 15 in the futures market on lack of positive cues. *Naka* and mill tender rates were unchanged as supplies were ample. Freight rates were steady. Morale was calm, said traders.

Sources said that despite farmers' agitation for higher cane price and possibilities of delay in crushing activities, the market is not reacting positively in view of producers being saddled with surplus.

An observer said that producers are currently making a loss of Rs 4-5 a kg at current price. Arrivals at the Vashi market were 58-60 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 57-58 loads. On Monday, about 12-13 mills offered tenders and sold 37,000-38,000 bags at Rs 2,690-2,790 (Rs 2,690-2,790) for S-grade and Rs 2,810-3,010 (Rs 2,810-3,010) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,840-2,970 (Rs 2,846-2,971) and M-grade Rs 3,006-3,222 (Rs 3,002-3,222).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,810-2,900 (Rs 2,810-2,900) and M-grade Rs 2,900-3,130 (Rs 2,900-3,130).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,200.

Chana may decline to Rs 2,800/quintal



Indore, Nov. 26: Chana prices dropped to Rs 3,000 a quintal on Tuesday following weak demand. A weak futures market also kept prices on leash in the spot market. Chana (desi) fell to Rs 2,800, chana (masumi) to Rs 3,300, while Kabuli Bitki quoted at Rs 3,000 a quintal. According to Prakash Vora, a trader, chana is likely to be bearish in the coming days and prices may decline to Rs 2,800 a quintal if the futures market does not recover.

Though sowing of chana across the country has been completed on 62.68 lakh hectares (58.85 lakh hectares last year), in Madhya Pradesh the area has declined as farmers have switched over to wheat which is given better incentives by the State Government.

According to another chana trader Sanjay Agrawal, chana prices are expected to remain range-bound for sometime with prices fluctuating between Rs 3,000 and Rs 3,100.

Adequate carryover stocks and arrival of imported chana will likely add to the bearish sentiment in chana, he said.

Chana dal (average) quoted at Rs 3,650-3,700, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,750-3,900, while chana dal (bold) declined to Rs 4,100-4,400.

Weak domestic demand dragged dollar chana (chickpea) in Indore mandis over the past one week by Rs 200 with prices on Tuesday quoted at Rs 3,500-4,500 a quintal.

In container also, dollar chana ruled firm on improved export demand with dollar chana (42/44 count) being quoted at Rs 5,350-75, while 44/46 count ruled at Rs 5,150-75, 58/60 count ruled at Rs 4,200-25, while 60/62 count ruled at Rs 4,100-25 a quintal respectively.

Pepper cools on slack buying



Kochi, Nov. 26: Pepper prices, in futures and spot markets, continued to fall on selling pressure amid weak demand. Resellers, who are picking up whatever material available in the primary markets, and some of the primary market dealers in Idukki and Wayanad (Pulpally and Bathery), are selling at a time when there are no buyers from upcountry markets. This phenomenon aided the fall, sources told *Business Line*. On the spot, 35 tonnes of pepper arrived and were traded at Rs 490-505 a kg depending upon the quality and area of production. Rajkumari (Idukki) pepper

was offered at Rs 510. But, there were no buyers.

Demand from North India is slow due to elections and the wedding season, they said. At the same time, other buyers are also reluctant to cover in the declining market.

On the NMCE, December and January contracts fell by Rs 350 and Rs 733 respectively to Rs 51,900 and Rs 51,050 a quintal.

Total turnover dropped by two tonnes to 20 tonnes. Total open interest increased by three tonnes to 13 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, there was no activity on Tuesday, they said. Spot prices decreased by Rs 400 to close at Rs 49,000 (ungarbled) and Rs 51,000 (garbled) a quintal.

Export prices were also down to \$8,650 (c&f) for Europe and \$8,900 a tonne (c&f) for the US and nearing to competitive levels.

Refiners-resellers tug of war stalls edible oils market



downtrend.

Mumbai, Nov. 26: Slack demand and higher selling pressure continued to drag edible oil prices in Mumbai on Tuesday. Activities were muted for the second consecutive day as buying support was lacking.

Arrivals of kharif crops in markets near producing areas further added to the

A weak futures market pulled down palmolein by Rs 5 and rapeseed oil by Rs 3 for 10 kg. Soya oil lost Rs 20 on expectation of higher arrivals in the coming days.

Sources said that there were absolutely no activity as the price gap for palmolein between local refineries and resellers was wide.

Tracking weak foreign market, the domestic futures market also extended losses. In physical market, resellers were offering palmolein at Rs 590-591 ex-JNPT compared with Rs 610-612 quoted by refineries.

Towards the day's close, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 612, super palmolein at Rs 632 and super deluxe at Rs 652, soyabean refined oil at Rs 690 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 775.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 612, soyabean refined oil at Rs 670 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 725. Allana quoted at palmolein at Rs 613, super palmolein at Rs 630, super deluxe at Rs 650, soyabean refined oil at Rs 690 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 770.

Soyabean arrivals were 2.60 lakh bags and prices were Rs 3,600-3,750 in Maharashtra and Rs 3,600-3,900 ex mandi and Rs 3,875-3,950 plant delivery in Madhya Pradesh. Mustard seed arrivals were 70,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,280-3,700.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil December contracts settled lower at MYR 2,613 (MYR 2,622), January at MYR 2,621 (MYR 2,630) and February at MYR 2,622 (MYR 2,630).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 860 (860), soya refined oil 670 (690), sunflower exp. ref. 680 (680), sunflower ref. 730 (735), rapeseed ref. oil 762 (765), rapeseed expeller ref. 732 (735) cottonseed ref. oil 665 (665) and palmolein 600 (605).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 670/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein December delivery.

Quality arrivals lend colour to turmeric



Erode, Nov. 26: Spot turmeric prices increased in Erode markets on Tuesday on quality arrivals.

“For the second day, quality turmeric arrived for sale. Traders quoted higher prices and procured a good number of bags. Many traders and exporters prefer the hybrid variety and they quoted at Rs 200 a quintal higher than yesterday. Of the 4,300 bags that arrived, 70 per cent was sold,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that local traders and exporters have received some upcountry orders and they are buying reasonable stocks. The current trend may prevail for some more days and there may be a

fluctuation of Rs 100 a quintal. Traders have stopped their sourcing their requirement from other States temporarily.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,196-6,391 and the root variety Rs 4,069-5,567 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,829-6,896 and the root variety Rs 5,037-5,899. Of the 1,117 bags that arrived, only 411 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,510-6,519 and the root variety Rs 4,764-5,579. Of the 710 bags put up for sale, 692 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,311-6,426; the root variety Rs 4,984-5,677. Of the 641 bags on offer, 631 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,039-6,419; the root variety Rs 4,672-5,480. All the 123 bags found takers.

Dara wheat likely to rise on low stocks



Karnal, Nov. 26: Dara wheat prices are likely to rule firm around current levels in the coming days. Low availability of stocks coupled with good domestic demand pushed dara wheat and flour up on Tuesday.

Radhey Sham, a trade expert, told *Business Line* that fresh buying by flour mills helped dara prices climb. Wheat and flour prices are likely to be range-bound but within positive territory this week, he said, adding that domestic demand is propping up the market. Dara wheat prices have improved by Rs 60 a quintal over the last ten days. In the physical market, dara wheat moved up by Rs 20 to Rs 1,640-45 a quintal. Around 800 bags of wheat

arrived and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,640 while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,645.

A mixed trend was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on Tuesday.

Wheat for December delivery improved by Rs 2 and traded at Rs 1,662 with an open interest of 1,960 lots. The grain had touched a high at Rs 1,665 earlier in the day.

December contracts have some support at Rs 1,658 while resistance at Rs 1,666.

January contracts went down by Rs 2 and traded at Rs 1,674. In the spot market, wheat moved up by Rs 10 to Rs 1,590.

According to the market experts, the futures market may continue to witness a range-bound to steady movement in the coming days.

Flour Prices

Following higher domestic demand, flour witnessed a good rally, moved up by Rs 60 to Rs 1,910. Similarly, a good uptrend was witnessed in Chokar, increased by Rs 80 and sold at Rs 1,420-50 a quintal.
