

10 new farm fresh outlets for city



Twice the amount of onions, shallots being procured; supply hit but prices still at par, says CM

CHENNAI, October 31, 2013 - Reasonable rates
The 30 farm fresh outlets that are operating at present sell six tonnes of onion and one tonne of shallots every day —Photo: M. Srinath

The State government has taken steps to open 10 more farm fresh vegetable

outlets in Chennai to keep the prices of vegetables under control, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa told the Assembly on Wednesday.

She also said the government had doubled the amount of onions and shallots (sambar onion) to be procured for sale at these outlets.

Replying to Panruti S. Ramachandran, DMDK member and deputy leader of the House, she said 30 vegetable outlets were currently selling six tonnes of onion and one tonne of shallots every day.

The price of onion is Rs. 50 per kg and shallots are priced at Rs. 60 per kg.

Holding the Centre's wrong economic policies responsible for the hike in the price of essential commodities, the Chief Minister said Tamil Nadu could not get adequate onions from Andhra Pradesh because of the Telangana protests in Karnool.

Every day, onions used to arrive in 70 lorries at the wholesale vegetable market in Koyambedu, but the number of lorries had come down to 55 on October 24. The next two days saw the arrival of only 50 trucks.

"Still, the price of onions in Tamil Nadu is on par with that of other states," she said.

Listing out the measures taken by her government to provide succour to the common man, Ms. Jayalalithaa said Amma canteens were selling food items at very reasonable rates and bottled water for only Rs. 10.

She said the State government was implementing these welfare schemes with the hope that the Centre would reimburse them. "But the Centre is losing its credibility. After allocating funds for every scheme and the State government going ahead and spending the amount, the Centre has slashed its funding by up to 20 per cent," she said.

Collector visits affected coconut farms

RAJAPALAYAM, October 31, 2013 - Collector T.N. Hariharan on Wednesday visited coconut farms in Watrap, Srivilliputtur and Rajapalayam areas which have suddenly withered this year.

Withering of coconut trees which led to a drop in yield and the officials, including the Collector, not inspecting the farms rocked two successive monthly farmers' grievance day meetings.

The agitated farmers under the banner of the Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association, led by district secretary A. Vijayamurugan, and the Tamil Nadu Coconut Farmers Association, led by district secretary N.A. Singaraj, forwarded a petition to Chief Secretary Sheela Balakrishnan seeking the transfer of Mr. Hariharan.

Against this backdrop, the Collector visited Kansapuram, V. Pudupatti, Senbagathope and Sethur. He also enquired with the farmers about the damage, and assured them that the district administration would take up the issue with the government for securing compensation.

Tirupur farmers to get subsidy to set up apiaries

TIRUPUR, October 31, 2013 - Beekeeping or apiculture activities on a commercial scale is set for a leap in the district as the Department of Horticulture is ready to extend subsidy to farmers to set up 205 new honeybee colonies spread over 13 blocks in the district.

Under the project, the cost of each unit of honeybee colonies will be subsidised to the tune of 50 per cent of the capital expenditure required for the purchase of bee hives, honeybees and honey collection gadgets.

Objectives

"The apiculture project has twin objectives, that of increasing the honey production as well as to provide pollination support for the farmers who are involved in the cultivation of agriculture and horticulture crops," Deputy Director of Horticulture M. Tamilselvan told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Tamilselvan pointed out that rearing of honeybees would increase the yield of flower crops since the insects act as agents for carrying out cross pollination in the case of agriculture crops like sunflower, millets and in horticulture crops like mango, amla and vegetables.

To ensure optimum honey collection, the horticulture department officials will be giving technical support to the farmers.

Vermicompost

Along with the promotion of apiculture activities, the horticulture officials will also be encouraging the farmers to take up organic farming. "We are planning to give financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 4 lakh for setting up 30 vermicompost units across the district shortly," Mr. Tamilselvan said.

Of the 30 vermicompost units, 10 will be permanent structures.

“Subsidy for each of the permanent structures will be subjected to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 30,000 and that for portable structures the upper limit of the subsidy is fixed at Rs. 5,000 per unit,” Mr. Tamilselvan said.

Along with the promotion of apiculture activities, the officials will also be encouraging farmers to take up organic farming

Farmers protest over cane price

KOLHAPUR, October 31, 2013 - Farmers in Kolhapur and Satara are agitating on behalf of their respective organisations for a fair price which should be Rs. 3,500 per tonne and threatened that no sugar mill will be allowed to commence crushing unless the price is assured by the mills management. In a statement at Satara on Tuesday the ‘Shetakari Sanghatana’ leader Shankar Godse threatened that they had launched rasta-roko and if it was suppressed by police action further agitation would be initiated without any pre-declaration.

In Kolhapur district the Hamidwada co-operative sugar mill was obstructed and cane cutting was forcibly stopped by farmers under the banner of ‘Swabhimani Shetakari Sanghatana’ on Tuesday as the mill started cutting cane without first declaring the price to be paid per tonne.

AGITATION AGAINST HIKE IN POWER BILLS

Farmers and electricity consumers in and around Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur district have decided not to pay Mahavitaran’s power bills which are unduly hiked. A procession was taken out on Tuesday to the office of the Deputy Collector Ashwini Jirage and statement was given to her stating that the hiked power bills would not be paid under any circumstances.

Farmers to protest against Gadgil report

KOZHIKODE, October 31, 2013 - Farmers organisations led by Indian Farmers Movement (Infam) have decided to stage dharnas and take out protest marches on November 1 in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts to protest against recommendations of the Kasturirangan and Madhav Gadgil panel reports which they believe are a threat to their livelihood and were aimed at forcing farmers in Western Ghats regions to abandon their land.

Leaders of the joint action council formed by these organisations also alleged at a press conference on Wednesday, that there was clear discrimination in labelling 123 villages as ecologically fragile land where strict controls on farming and building activities have been recommended. As example they pointed out that ecologically sensitive areas in and around Wagamon, and Silent Valley had been exempted from this category.

They also pointed out that the Kasturirangan report had labelled as ecologically fragile land 123 villages where density of population was as high as 250 though the reports also states that places having more than 100 density of population should not be treated as ecologically fragile land.

Commercial crop list

The inclusion of rubber, tea, coffee, pepper, cashew, cardamom, arecanut and coconut in the list of commercial crops that should not be allowed in protected parts of Western Ghats would ruin the State's economy as also the farmers, they said and added it had been pointed out by Coffee Board, Spices Boards and many agricultural scientists. The farmers action council also questioned the validity of the Kasturirangan recommendation that chemical fertilizers and pesticides should not be allowed and said many scientists were of the view it was not advisable to abandon their use. The farmers' action council alleged that the ultimate aim of the Kasturirangan and Gadgil reports was eviction of farmers from hill ranges. The ban on cash crops recommended in these reports and attacks from wild animals would force farmers to leave the land in hill ranges which they had been cultivating for decades and on which they had clear ownership rights, the council said.

Immediate help sought for farmers

KHAMMAM, October 31, 2013 - Activists, owing allegiance to CPI (ML-New Democracy) and its frontal wings, staged a dharna here on Wednesday demanding immediate succour to the farmers hard-hit by vagaries of weather.

Activists of All India Kisan Mazdoor Sabha (AIKMS), Progressive Organisation of Women (POW) and Progressive Youth League (PYL) also took part in the protest demonstration. The speakers at the dharna lashed out at the government, accusing it of leaving the distressed farmers to their miserable plight, without initiating any concrete steps to infuse confidence in them. They further charged the government with failing to provide compensation to the farmers hit by cyclones in the past. They sought provision of adequate compensation to the farmers on a war-footing.

Chief Minister assures farmers all possible help

NARAYANAPURAM, RAMBILI MANDAL (VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT), October 31, 2013 - Kiran Kumar Reddy goes on tour of flood-affected areas in the district by road

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy assured the flood-affected people of the district of extending all possible help in tiding over the crisis due to loss of crop or damage of property. The Chief Minister who arrived at the airport here by a chopper from Srikakulam around 4 p.m., one-and-half-hour behind schedule, made a whirlwind tour of the flood-affected areas of the district by road.

Mr. Reddy said that the Prime Minister was likely to come to Visakhapatnam on November 2 and even if he doesn't, he would write a letter to him in this regard. He said that the State Government was not in a position to write off the huge amount of Rs.72,000 crore.

On the measures being taken by his government for the benefit of farmers, he said that Rs.33 crore promised to the farmers, who were affected by Neelam cyclone in November

last year, Rs.23 crore was already sanctioned but the entire amount could not be distributed to the beneficiaries due to the two-month long Samaikyandhra agitation.

The subsidy being given on seeds would be increased and the compensation being paid for various crops was also increased.

The Chief Minister appealed to the farmers not to lose their self-confidence and said that the State Government was with them in their hour of crisis.

Minister for Infrastructure and Investment Ganta Srinivasa Rao underlined the need for a permanent solution to the frequent problem of flooding of villages beside the Sarada river.

Action plan

He said that an action plan was being prepared on the directions of the Chief Minister. He called upon the flood-affected villagers to inform the officials concerned if their names were missing from the list.

Mr. Reddy inspected the flood-affected areas near the new bridge across the Sarada river at Devi Nagar. A good number of villagers lined up by the side of the road leading to the bridge.

He spoke to the residents of SC Colony at Thimmarajupeta of Munagapaka mandal. Water is still overflowing in the colony and the agitated women said: "We are yet to get the relief for the damage caused by the Neelam cyclone".

Huge crowds gathered at Atchutapuram junction to hear the Chief Minister but they were visibly disappointed as he left without stopping the convoy.

He was greeted with 'Jai Samaikyandhra' slogans at most of the places.

Grameena Bank extends help to farmers

WARANGAL, October 31, 2013 - The Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) has come forward to help farmers who have lost their crops in the recent rains.

Bank Chairman K. Lakshman Rao has expressed his sympathies to all the farmers who lost their crops and property in the recent Phiallin cyclone and the subsequent heavy rains following the depression in Bay of Bengal. The Bank has decided to give crop loans immediately to all the deserving farmers. The farmers who repay their existing loan, will be given fresh loan the same day with 30 per cent increase.

Input subsidy, provided by government could also be routed through accounts. The government would bear the interest burden on loans up to Rs. 1 Lakh.

As a short-term target, Rs. One lakh RuPay Kisan Credit Cards and 2 Lakh RuPay ATM Debit Cards to the farmers and depositors would be given during November 2013.

Agricultural labourers take out procession

BELLARY, October 31, 2013 - A large number of agricultural labourers under the banner of Karnataka Pranta Krishi Coolikarara Sangha took out a procession from Amrapur village to Bellary, to urge authorities to concede their demands without further delay.

Ensuring work for 100 days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), houses to all homeless, allotting farmland to Dalits and implementation of welfare schemes for Dalits were some of the major demands. Labourers from Amrapur, Bevinahalli, Kakkabevinahalli, T. Budihal, Godehal, Asundi and surrounding villages took part in the procession. They also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Executive Officer of the zilla panchayat.

Cultivating innovating habit helps overcome problems



New thinking: Jegannatha Raja, of Rajapalayam has thought out-of-the-box to erect his own green house.-Photo: Special Arrangement.

Absence of a suitable solution to overcome a present problem or not being satisfied with existing ones makes some farmers turn innovators.

“The main reason that makes them think and innovate something new could probably be that they are the best judge about the way to tackle the problem they are facing in their area,” says Mr. Vivekanandan, Executive Director,

Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Voluntary Action (SEVA), Madurai.

Idea genesis

Mr. K.S. Jegannatha Raja, a farmer and nursery owner in Rajapalayam is one such person whose out-of-the-box thinking led him to erect a greenhouse for his nursery in Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu.

Usually big nurseries erect a greenhouse for maintaining the health of seedlings. Mr. Raja wanted to establish a greenhouse but the price quoted for erecting was more than Rs. 40,000.

The farmer designed his own greenhouse costing Rs.1,000. He used plastic pipes instead and a plastic sheet along with some nuts, bolts and iron bars. He found that direct sunlight penetrating the plastic sheets affected the newly developed buds/ tender leaves.

“Whenever direct sunlight does not fall on the plants I observed that the seedlings are normal and healthy. So I placed some coconut fronds on the top,” he says. By seeing this model two local farmers also followed this technique.

“So far in Tamil Nadu tamarind (kodukkapuli in Tamil) seedlings have been raised only through seedlings or seeds but Mr. Raja developed cleft grafting (sorugu ottu in Tamil) technique in tamarind and commercialised it,” says Mr. Vivekanandan.

Tamarind usually takes about 20 years to yield well while the grafted ones developed by Mr. Raja come to yield in four years.

Searching for the best

The farmer spent years in Sathur region in Virudhunagar surveying to identify the best mother tree for grafting. The tamarind developed by the farmer is deep red in colour and is considered ideal for making natural dyes.

He has also installed drip irrigation for his nursery. Unlike other places where the drip lines are on top of the soil Mr. Raja has buried the lines two feet under the soil. "I advise other farmers doing drip irrigation to follow the same technique because when you bury the line under the ground, rodents like rats or wild animals like boars do not damage the drip pipes," he explains.

Another novelty

Another novelty about his work is that he grows his seedlings in plastic containers instead of poly bags.

Usually seedlings are grown in black coloured plastic bags in nurseries or in small mud pots and later transplanted to the ground.

But Mr. Raja felt that poly bags are a waste of investment since they are not durable and get torn after some months of watering.

No mud pots

The mud pots too are not conducive since they easily break so he made a sketch of his innovation and approached a local cottage unit in his area where plastic containers are manufactured. The manufacturers were not convinced about the idea of producing the plastic pots as expected by him.

The farmer got hold of a second hand dye model and altered it to make his own plastic containers. He feels that it costs only Rs.4.10 per plastic container which is more convenient than a conventional polythene bag.

Hold more water

"The containers hold more water and reduce the quantity of water requirement for nursery seedlings. There is no wastage or spillover of water while watering and the transport of seedlings is also much easier and there is no breakage as in mudpots.

"Root piercing out of bags is also negligible. Since it is a uniquely coloured model I am easily able to spot whether my seedlings have been stolen by others," he says. The container can be used for one and half years according to him.

Personal need

His own requirements of plastic containers alone are about 30,000 in a year. He raises mango, guava, coconut, sandal and wood apple and manila tamarind (kodukkapuli in Tamil) seedlings in the plastic containers and sells about 25, 000 seedlings in a year.

In a year he is able to earn more than Rs.5-6 lakhs from selling his seedlings to farmers from different parts of the state. Recently the Development of Humane Action (DHAN)

Foundation in Madurai conferred an award on the farmer for his indigenous innovations.

For more information interested farmers can contact Mr.K.S.Jegannatha Raja, Rajapalayam Nursery,168, Madurai Road, Cotton market, Rajapalayam: 626117,mobile: 94420 57077, 98421 22866.

Management of canker infestation in citrus

Acid lime variety is highly susceptible to citrus canker. Yield losses range from 5 to 30 per cent, depending upon the variety. The disease attacks seedlings and grown up trees. In young plants in the nursery, the disease causes serious damage. Badly cankered leaves fall down and in serious infestation the entire plant dies.

The disease affects leaves, twigs, thorns, older branches and fruits. On the leaves the disease first appears as a small, watery, translucent yellow coloured spot.

As the spots mature, the surface becomes white or grey in colour and finally ruptures in the centre giving a rough, hard, corky and crater-like appearance.

Gumming

The infection spreads to the fruits on which spots are formed. The cankers may be scattered all over the surface or several cankers may occur together forming an irregular scurfy mass.

Gumming is sometimes associated with spots on fruits.

Canker has never been observed occurring naturally on roots of even badly diseased trees.

However the disease has been found on grape fruit roots exposed above ground surface.

Management

-Dropped off canker affected leaves and twigs should be collected and burnt.

Disease-free nursery stocks should be used for planting in new orchards.

The plants before planting in new orchards should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture 1.0 per cent.

In old orchards pruning of affected plant parts before the onset of monsoon and spraying with Bordeaux mixture 1.0 per cent at periodical intervals depending upon weather conditions controls the disease.

-Spraying should be done immediately after the appearance of every new flush of leaves.

The vigour of the plant should always be maintained by proper fertilization and irrigation.

Manuring should be done in such a way that its maximum effect is felt during wet weather.

(Utpal Dey, Ph.D. scholar and A.P. Suryawanshi, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, V.N. Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani - 431402, Maharashtra, Mobile: 8275824103)

Woman's valiant effort to save crop goes in vain

VEMULAKOTA(PRAKASAM), October 31, 2013 - A 70-year-old woman made a herculean effort to save her Sajja crop from the torrential rains but in vain. Amid the incessant rain, she along with her family members including her school-going granddaughter harvested Bajra in the slush in a remote village in Markapaur mandal.

But the rains left the entire Sajja crop inundated in Western Prakasam district, which is usually known for its drought-like condition. Not just the coastal mandals but also the drought-prone upland areas were not spared by last week's flood fury.

Talking to *The Hindu* while drying Pearl millet, which grows well even in conditions of drought, Chabolu Pitchamma, who makes it a point to toil in her farm despite her advancing age every day, said in addition to the two acres she owned, she had grown Sajja in one more acre taking on lease more land.

"Despite moisture stress, we were able to save Sajja sown as inter-crop along with Redgram but not the rest of it," lamented the septuagenarian.

Showing the damaged Bajra crop, 78-year-old Bantupolu Pedda Ramaiah said, "I have never seen such heavy rainfall in my life."

Vijayamma seeks complete waiver of crop loans



YSR Congress Party honorary president Y.S. Vijayamma interacting with paddy farmers in Budumuru Village of Etcherla mandal Srikakulam district on Wednesday. —Photo: Basheer

SRIKAKULAM, October 31, 2013 - YSR Congress Party honorary president Y.S. Vijayamma on Wednesday said that her party would step up pressure on the Union government for the complete waiver of crop loans and immediate relief measures for the flood and cyclone victims of Srikakulam district.

She visited Laveru, Narasannapeta and Tekkali constituencies and consoled flood victims. Several villagers in Budumuru told Ms. Vijayamma that they had not yet received input subsidy even for the Neelam Cyclone and it would take many years for them to receive relief for Phailin cyclone. She said that they would not have such problems if Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy was alive. Farmers of Susaram village told her that they were in debt trap with the frequent natural calamities. They asked to step up pressure on the government for complete loan waiver and disbursement of new loans. Later addressing a media conference in Srikakulam, She said that the compensation should be paid based on the investment made in the crops. YSR Congress Party leaders Dharmana Krishnadas, Varudu Kalyani, Tammineni Seetaram, and Duppala Ravindrababu followed Ms. Vijayamma during her tour.

Rescheduling of crop loans in rain-hit areas, says Kiran



'A proposal to be sent to the Centre to consider waiver of agricultural loans of Rs. 72,000 crore'

Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday night. MLA Malla Vijaya Prasad, District Collector S Solomon Arokia Raj, Minister for Investment Ganta Srinivas Rao, Rajya Sabha MP T

Subbarami Reddy, Government Whip Dronamraju Srinivas and Bheemili MLA M Srinivas are seen.

VISAKHAPATNAM, October 31, 2013 - Crop loans in rain-affected areas will be rescheduled without interest after consultation with bankers and a proposal will be sent to the Centre to consider waiver of agricultural loans of Rs.72,000 crore, Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy said.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday evening after a visit to the rain-affected areas, he said officials would also be asked not to adjust input subsidy against any crop loans pending. He said the loss was still being estimated it would take some time for all the details to come in.

Towards drought or flood relief a total of Rs.6,000 crore had been sanctioned to farmers during the last three years of which only about 25 per cent came from the Centre and remaining was borne by the State Government. For paddy the amount was raised from Rs.4,900 a ha to Rs.10,000 and proportionately it was increased to the other crops as well. Mr. Kiran Kumara Reddy said there could be some delay in opening of accounts since online disbursal came into force only a year ago. Even then Rs.1,500 crore of Rs.1,800 crore was credited to farmers' accounts. On all the farmers not receiving amounts for loss suffered in Nilam cyclone, he asked whether there was any instance of farmers receiving it in the same year. Permanent measures to prevent floods for three rivers in the district had been sent from the district to Hyderabad but were held up in the Finance Ministry and would be taken up.

Of the Rs.33 crore due for Nilam cyclone, Rs.23 crore was released and Rs.10 crore distributed and the remaining would be given in the next week, ten days.

He said for 10 villages water was still being transported. The district administration had evacuated 30,000 people.

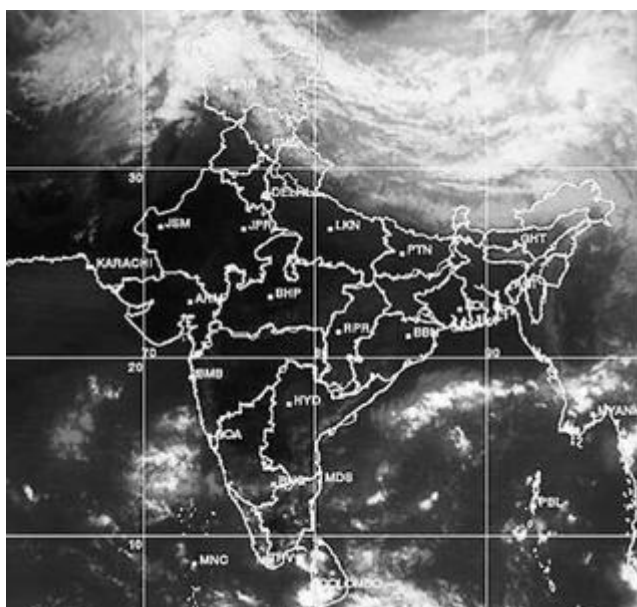
The Chief Minister decline to talk about the move to call for an all-party meeting by the Centre on the bifurcation of the State stating the visit was mainly to take stock of the rain damage.

Minister for Infrastructure and Investment Ganta Srinivasa Rao, MP T Subbarami Reddy, Government Whip Dronamraju Srinivasa Rao, MLAs Ch Venkatramaiah, Muttamsetty Srinivasa Rao and Malla Vijay Prasad were present.

FCI urged to stock wheat

CHENNAI, October 31, 2013 - The offtake of wheat in the State will not improve unless the FCI stocks wheat in major districts, said a spokesman of Tamil Nadu Roller Flour Mills Association. The spokesman claimed no allotments were made to Salem, Madurai and Dindigul.

Weather



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

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	33	21	0	50
Arogyavaram	30	21	0	152
Bapatla	33	25	0	497
Calingapatnam	31	23	0	922
Gannavaram	33	24	0	410
Hanamkonda	33	23	0	284
Hyderabad AP	31	18	0	239
Kakinada	33	25	0	620
Khammam	33	25	0	98
Kavali	33	23	0	343
Kurnool	33	21	0	86
Mahabubnagar	31	18	0	163
Machilipatnam	32	24	0	381
Nandyal	33	21	0	73
Narasapur	32	25	0	606
Nellore	35	26	0	270
Nizamabad	32	18	0	106
Ongole	35	25	0	479

Ramagundam	32	18	0	201
Tirupathi AP	34	23	0	232
Tuni	33	24	0	470
Vizag AP	33	25	0	555
Vizag	31	24	0	511

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	31	18	0	529
Bengaluru AP	28	21	0	108
Bengaluru	29	21	3	100
Belgaum AP	30	17	0	60
Bellary	33	20	0	50
Bijapur	31	19	0	110
Chitradurga	30	20	0	53
Chickmagalur	28	18	0	30
Chintamani	29	19	0	44
Gadag	30	19	0	88
Gulbarga	34	20	0	35
Hassan	29	21	0	83
Honavar	32	23	0	222
Karwar	33	24	0	167
Madikeri	25	19	1	186
Mangalore AP	31	24	1	235
Mysore	30	21	0	105
Mandya	31	22	tr	125
Panambur	32	24	tr	200
Raichur	31	19	0	102
Shirali	33	24	0	406

KERALA

Alappuzha	31	25	1	134
Kannur	32	25	0	286
Kochi AP	32	24	18	331
Kottayam	33	23	6	374
Kozhikode	33	25	0	164
Punalur	34	23	3	412

Thiruvanantha

-puram AP	31	24	tr	117
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Thiruvanantha

-puram City	33	23	1	214
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Vellanikkara	33	24	19	365
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TAMIL NADU

Adirapattinam	34	26	0	49
Chennai	33	27	0	157
Chennai AP	33	26	0	223
Coimbatore AP	33	23	0	80
Coonoor	22	14	40	170
Cuddalore	34	26	0	73
Dharmapuri	31	21	0	131

Kanyakumari	31	24	0	26
Karaikal	31	26	0	114
Kodaikanal	20	11	3	129
Madurai AP	36	24	0	182
Nagapattinam	32	26	1	100
Palayamkottai	37	25	0	86
Pamban	33	26	0	122
Parangipettai	33	26	0	144
Puducherry	34	25	tr	64
Salem	33	23	0	137
Thanjavur	33	26	0	80
Tiruchi AP	34	25	0	128
Tiruchi	—	—	—	—
Tirupattur	30	19	0	125
Tiruttani	33	25	0	195
Tondi	32	26	0	98
Tuticorin	33	24	0	23
Ooty	20	18	0	177
Valparai	23	19	0	231
Vellore	32	25	1	77
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	31	23	0	75
Minicoy	31	23	0	43
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	33	23	0	523
Mumbai	33	24	0	66
New Delhi	31	15	0	73

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since October 01, 2013.

ISOLATED RAIN OVER COASTAL A.P.

CHENNAI: Rainfall occurred at a few places over Kerala. Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal and South interior Karnataka. Dry weather prevailed over Rayalaseema, Telangana, north interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep. On Tuesday, the maximum temperature rose at one or two places over north coastal Andhra Pradesh, interior Karnataka, fell at one or two places over coastal Tamil Nadu. They were markedly above normal at one or two places over south Tamil Nadu, south coastal Andhra Pradesh, appreciably above normal at most places over Tamil Nadu, at one or two places over south coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The minimum temperature fell appreciably at one or two places over south interior Karnataka, fell at one or two places over Telanganan, Rayalaseema, rose at one or two places over Interior Tamil Nadu. They were below normal at one or two places over Telangana, Interior Tamil Nadu, appreciably above normal at one or two places over coastal Tamil Nadu.

FORECAST (Valid until Friday Morning): Rain or thundershower would occur at a few places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, coastal and south interior Karnataka. Isolated rain or

thundershowers may occur over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and Lakshadweep. Mainly dry weather will prevail over Telangana and north interior Karnataka.



Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Oct 31

Max Min
32° | 25°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 79

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:02

Sunset: 05:42

Barometer: 1013

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Friday, Nov 1

Max Min
33° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Nov 2



32° | 23°

Cloudy

Sunday

Nov 3



27° | 26°

Overcast

Monday

Nov 4



27° | 25°

Overcast

Tuesday

Nov 5



27° | 26°

Overcast

Wednesday

Nov 6



27° | 25°

Cloudy

Business Standard

No end in sight to slump in sugar prices

Mills' rush to prepare for crushing season by raising more working capital adds to the downward pressure



The prolonged slump in [sugar prices](#) is worrying the industry, with no respite in sight. The national average wholesale price is Rs 29 a kg, a four-year low.

Data from the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association shows the average spot price of the benchmark M30 variety is Rs 3,116 a quintal, against the ex-factory price of Rs 2,830-2,870 a qtl. The commodity for delivery in December was quoted at Rs 2,852 a qtl on Wednesday

after hitting Rs 2,847 a qtl, the lowest since June 13, 2012.

For quite a while, producers' realisation has consistently been Rs 300– 400 a qtl lower than the average cost of production. Due to global oversupply, [exports](#) are also not an option for now. With estimates of a further decline in price, a number of mills fear they might run out of business and be declared sick.

“To raise working capital for commencing cane [crushing](#) this season, mills are in a hurry to liquidate stock. Since they have incurred losses through the year, due to lower realisation than the cost of production, they are under severe shortage in cash flow. Consequently, they are in a hurry to sell inventories,” said Abinash Verma, director general of the Indian [Sugar Mills](#)’ Association.

Trader sentiment is weak, with the community not building inventory for future sale. “When supply remains much higher than demand, prices are bound to go down. For the first time in 20 years, sugar prices have fallen during the festive days, presumed to be the demand season,” said Vivek Saraogi, managing director, Balrampur Chini.



The average cost of sugar production in Maharashtra is Rs 32 a kg, against the realisation of Rs 29 a kg. In Uttar Pradesh, average realisation is Rs 30 a kg against Rs 33 a kg as the cost of production. Mills in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu incur similar loss in output.

With 25.1 million tonnes of output during the 2012-13 season, the country has around seven mt of inventory as on date. The surplus is unlikely to recede unless export of at least three to four mt takes place in the first quarter of the crushing season (up to January 2014). Mills are set to add another five mt of monthly output after that. With around two mt of monthly

consumption, the industry is likely to see a further addition to the surplus of at least three mt each month, beginning January.

As noted earlier, exports are not a feasible option at present. A handful of mills in Maharashtra have signed contracts for shipping around 300,000 tonnes of raw sugar, at an average of Rs 25.50-26 a kg. If there's nothing more, prices are bound to fall further on this count alone, notes Verma.

According to Ajit Chougule, secretary, Maharashtra State Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd: "There were 108 functional co-operative sugar mills in 2012-13. This is likely to decline to less than 100 this year."

Sanjay Tapriya, chief financial officer of Simbhaoli Sugars, believes the absence of bulk consumers has pulled down sugar prices. Amid expectation of a further price fall, bulk consumers have opted, for now, not to build any stock.

Soybean gains on supply worries, good demand



[Soybean](#) prices gained as much as 8-10 per cent in spot markets in a week on declining supplies and good demand, said traders.

"Markets are witnessing a mix of both inferior and good quality soybean supplies at present and prices have gained around Rs 250-300 in all categories," said B L Saini, a soybean trader in [Indore mandi](#).

Due to heavy and incessant rains in [kharif](#) 2013 a significant amount of soybean crop got damaged and local mandis are witnessing at least three types of supplies, that is, damaged and spotted, average quality and good grading quality, said traders.

Currently, damaged and spotted soybean prices are Rs 2,100-2,200 per 100 kg compared with Rs 1,700-2,000 per 100 kg a week ago and good quality prices are Rs 3,900-4,000 per 100 kg compared with Rs 3,600-3,800 a week ago, added Saini.

Plant delivery prices ranged between Rs 3,700-3,850 per 100 kg compared with Rs 3,600-3,625 a week ago.

Good soy product demand and declining supplies were seen as the major reasons behind the price gains, said traders.

Currently, soymeal is witnessing moderate demand and soyoil is getting good demand due to festivals, said traders.

Farmers delivered around 275,000 bags of 100 kg to Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday compared with 400,000 bags a week ago, said traders.

Traders feel the arrivals are down as farmers are probably getting busy in fields due to rabi sowing and many are not bringing their produce to the markets in expectations of better prices.

"Farmers have sold not more than 30 per cent of their produce in my village in October as we are awaiting better prices," said Shekhar Thakur from Borawasa village near Indore.

Also, supplies may be lower in the coming days due to Diwali holidays in many major mandis from Friday, said traders.

Many traders feel lowering of production figures by trade bodies and experts is also giving way to bullish sentiment in the markets.

Tamil Nadu govt doubles its onion procurement

Govt to sell through state-run rates at subsidized rate



[Tamil Nadu](#) Government has decided to double its procurement of onions from the market and sell it through its own vegetables and fruits outlets at a cheaper price to the public. It may be noted, while at the organised retail outlets and other shops, onions are sold at around Rs 75-80 a kg, Tamil Nadu is selling at a price of Rs 30.

In a reply at the State Assembly today, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister [Jayalithaa](#) blamed the Central Government's policies for the price increase of essential products and the recent being the Onion.

Jayalithaa said, at the wholesale [Koyambedu](#) market, which is the key source for vegetables and flowers, big onion is costing Rs 60 a kg, while small onion, referred as sambar onion, is costing around Rs 75-80. She noted, on the organised retail chains it cost around Rs 70 and Rs 95 respectively.

However, according to the Chief Minister, to ease the burden of the public the state Government is selling big onion at Rs 30 and small onion at a price of Rs 60 kg, through the State run 'Pannai Pasumai Nugarvor Kootturavu Kadai, which sells fresh vegetables.

At present these state-run outlets are selling six tonne of big onions and one tonne of small onions every day and this will be doubled, said the Chief Minister.

This initiative is aimed at beating the high inflationary trend and the State administration anticipates the prices of vegetables would come down in supermarkets.

She also compared the prevailing rates of onion in other states including Bangalore (Rs 58 a kg), Hyderabad (Rs 60), Kerala (Rs 70), Delhi (Rs65), Mumbai (Rs 70), Kolkata (Rs70), Bihar

(Rs 80) and Assam (Rs 78).

Tamil Nadu's demand for onion is catered by Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Onion arrival from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh one of the main sources for Tamil Nadu, was affected due to the recent agitations, due to Government's proposal to separate Telangana. The Koyambedu market which used to get 70 lorries of onion from this district in Andhra Pradesh is now getting only 50 loads.

Meanwhile traders in the market said that proactive stance by the state government and the CID's food cell, which is monitoring delivery trucks, is also helping to keep the price of onions stable.

Reports added, the price had spiralled towards the latter half of the year because of hoarding and due to patchy rainfall in some places and heavy showers ruining crops in other onions growing regions. The traders hopes that the prices will revert to normal once the winter harvest arrives in the market.

Potato futures up 2.58% on strong demand

Speculators enlarged their positions on a firming spot market trend amid restricted supplies



[Potato prices](#) rose by 2.58% to Rs 849.90 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions on a firming spot market trend amid restricted supplies from the major producing regions.

Sentiment improved further as the traders enlarged holdings on account of a surge in the demand for the commodity in the market also supported the uptrend.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in April-2014 rose by Rs 21.40, or 2.58%, to Rs 849.90 per quintal, with trading volume of 8 lots.

The potato for delivery in March also moved up by Rs 14.20, or 1.64%, to Rs 878 per quintal with a trade volume of 75 lots.

Marketmen said increased buying by speculators on pick-up in spot market demand and tight supplies from major producing belts mainly led to rise in potato prices at futures trade.

Crude palm oil extends gains on firm overseas cues

Traders and speculators indulged in expanding positions on strong demand in the spot market



[Crude palm oil](#) remained firm with [prices](#) rising by another 2.98% to Rs 561.80 per 10 kg in futures trade today as traders and speculators indulged in expanding positions on strong demand in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in November rose Rs 16.30, or 2.98%, to Rs 561.80 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 987 lots.

The oil for October delivery higher by Rs 10.50, or 1.92%, to Rs 555.80 per 10 kg, with trading volume of 189 lots.

Analysts said sentiment buoyed largely in tune with a firming trend overseas after palm oil rallied to the highest level in eight months on speculation that wet weather will disrupt harvests in Malaysia.

Globally, palm oil for delivery in January contracts advanced 2.30% to 2,555 ringgit (USD 810) a metric ton on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the highest since February 22.

Cardamom surges on spot demand

Tight arrivals from producing regions also supported the uptrend in cardamom futures



[Cardamom prices](#) surged 0.95% to Rs 718 per kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions, triggered by export and spot demand.

Besides, tight arrivals from producing regions also supported the uptrend in cardamom futures.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in November up by Rs 6.50, or 0.95%, to Rs 718 per kg, with a business turnover of 544 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in December jumped up by Rs 5.10, or 0.68%, to Rs 751.70 per kg, with trading volume of 97 lots.

Traders said rising export as well as spot demand amid less arrivals from producing regions mainly led to rise in cardamom futures prices.

THE HINDU Business Line

Wheat prices surge 5% in a month; millers complain of short-supply



Wheat prices have increased by over five per cent in the last couple of weeks as traders and millers complain of shortage in supplies.

“There seems to be no wheat at all in the market and we are starved of supplies. We have to make do with the grain supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through its open market sale

scheme,” said Pramod Kumar, Director of Bangalore-based Sunil Agro Mills.

Prices of wheat used by flour mills at the Etawah Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee yard in Uttar Pradesh increased to Rs 1,480 a quintal early this week from Rs 1,400 during the middle of September.

In Kanpur, prices for the same variety have gone up to Rs 1,610 from Rs 1,545 at the start of the month.

Wheat futures maturing in December have risen to Rs 1,639 from Rs 1,580 during the same period.

“Wheat prices in the open market are rising every day and we are surprised,” said Raj Narayan Gupta, a miller in Uttar Pradesh.

Not enough quantity

Though millers can buy wheat from FCI’s open market sale, they complain that they are not able to get the quantity required.

“We are not getting the required quantity of wheat either from the FCI or open market. The quality of the grain offered by the Food Corporation is also not up-to-mark,” said P.K. Ahmed, Kerala Roller Flour Mills Federation Chairman.

Currently, FCI offers wheat to bulk users under the open market sale scheme at Rs 1,820 a quintal in Karnataka and Kerala at the railway yard. If millers get wheat from Uttar Pradesh to their factory gates in these States, it costs them around Rs 1,950.

Food Ministry officials refute millers’ claim on the availability and quality of wheat.

“There is absolutely no shortage. Enough wheat is being released through FCI under the open market sale scheme,” said a senior official. On September 24, the Cabinet approved sale of 85 lakh tonnes of wheat to bulk buyers such as flour millers under the open market scheme by easing norms. Earlier, bulk traders were allowed to buy FCI wheat only from Punjab and Haryana at the reserve price of Rs 1,500 a quintal through tenders.

Going by the recent decision, millers can buy wheat from FCI depots in their own States by paying the reserve price plus the charges for moving the grain from Ludhiana.

“Purchase of wheat under the open market sale has rather been poor compared with the quantity allotted. Of the 57.13 lakh tonnes allotted, the offtake has been only 1.9 lakh tonnes as on October 14,” FCI said in a statement.

“Quality is an issue for the poor procurement,” said a miller on condition of anonymity. Millers wonder if the Agriculture Ministry has projected the wheat crop correctly this year. In its revised estimate, the Ministry has pegged the crop at 92.46 million tonnes against a record 94.88 mt last year.

“We don’t think that India has produced so much wheat this year. Let’s look this way. Procurement by the FCI for the Central pool dropped to 25 mt this year from 38 mt last year. If the Agriculture Ministry’s estimate is correct, then where has the over 10 mt of wheat gone?” asked Sunil Agro’s Kumar.

But Agriculture Ministry officials say their projection is based on inputs from various agencies and any revision will be made during the final estimate later.

What is worrying millers currently is the Centre’s effort to export wheat at a price which they consider is subsidising overseas buyers.

In August, the Centre had cleared export of two mt of wheat from FCI stocks at \$300 a tonne. But with no takers for the grain at that price, the FCI got the Food Ministry to lower the floor price for export to \$260 (Rs 1,600 a quintal).

“The Government should not have lowered the floor price for export because it would amount to subsidising buyers abroad. Recently, one of the multi-national firms exported 30,000 tonnes of wheat from here at \$279 (Rs 1,713 a quintal),” said Kumar.

Millers say that the actual realisation from \$260 will only be \$240 (Rs 14,750), taking transportation costs into consideration.

“Mills in North India are getting wheat from the FCI at Rs 1,500 a quintal,” said UP mills’ Gupta.

The Government is keen to export since the FCI has over 36 mt of wheat in its warehouses against the mandatory 11 mt as on October 1.

“The Centre should offer better wheat at a more competitive price to us,” said Kerala Flour Mills’ Ahmed.

Millers point is that Indian wheat that is exported is used primarily for feed purpose abroad. Recently, the Philippines signed a contract to import 45,000 of feed wheat, comparable with Indian quality, from the Black Sea region at \$295 (Rs 1,810 a quintal) cost and freight. On Tuesday, Russia offered wheat from the region at \$280 (Rs 17,200).

Wheat prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, a benchmark for the grain market, increased to \$7.03 a bushel (Rs 1,590 a quintal) last week on concerns over dry weather in Argentina and delay in Ukraine and Russian planting owing to rain.

However, with rains forecast throughout this week in Argentina and wheat sowing picking up in the erstwhile Soviet Union states, prices have dropped to \$6.83 a bushel (Rs 1,541 a quintal) on Wednesday.

Uptrend continues in pepper futures

Kochi, Oct. 30: November pepper contracts continued their uptrend on limited availability. There was no aggressive selling, even though some of those who could not sell the material held by them in recent days showed interest to sell.

“However, availability continued to remain tight. Buyers, having fully engaged in dry fruit business for Diwali, have slowed down buying for the time being.

They are expected to be back in the market to cover for the winter requirements,” market sources told *Business Line*.

On the spot, 15 tonnes of fresh pepper arrived and 17 tonnes were traded, they said.

On the NMCE, November and December contracts increased by Rs 195 and Rs 500 respectively to Rs 47,495 and Rs 47,500 a quintal.

Turnover was up by six tonnes to eight tonnes. The net open position declined by one tonne to 14 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, November contract was down by Rs 500 to Rs 49,000 while December was up by Rs 500 to Rs 49,000 a quintal. There was reportedly no activity on the IPSTA platform today, they said.

Spot prices dipped by Rs 100 to Rs 46,300 (ungarbled) and Rs 48,300 (garbled) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market stayed at \$8,350 (c&f) Europe and \$8,600 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

Spot rubber futures rise marginally

Kottayam, Oct.30: Domestic rubber futures finished marginally higher on Wednesday.

November contracts inched up to Rs 161.20 (Rs 161.09), December to Rs 163 (Rs 162.87) and January to Rs 165.18 (Rs 164.73) per kg, while the February and March contracts,

remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) closed at Rs 155.48 (Rs 155.17) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 251.5 (Rs 156.80) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber prices were not available as the local trading houses remained closed at

Kottayam owing to a 12-hour hartal in protest against the recent price fall of the

commodity. Meanwhile, sheet rubber improved to Rs 159.50 (Rs 159.00) at Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

Rubber ‘capital’ goes on hartal seeking ban on imports

Kochi, Oct. 30: A Left Democratic Front-backed rubber farmers’ hartal in Kerala’s Kottayam district, the nerve-centre of rubber production and trade in the country as well as the seat

of the Rubber Board, left several businesses and offices closed and sent most of the public transport off the road on Wednesday.

The hartal, which was against the backdrop of the sharp fall in the prices of natural rubber, was to ask the Centre to wind down rubber imports and impose 20 per cent import duty as had been decided earlier this year.

The hartal, called by the farmers' wings of the Opposition CPI (M) and its partners in the Left Front, was enforced only in Kottayam district. Most shops and businesses remained closed in the district headquarters and key towns, while in the interior areas, it partially impacted public life. While inter-district buses run by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation were allowed to run, those operating within the district stayed off. Most government offices reported thin attendance.

Mahatma Gandhi University, which has its headquarters in Kottayam, cancelled all examinations scheduled for Wednesday.

M.T. Joseph, the front's convenor in Kottayam district, told *Business Line* that the hartal was near-total. He said that rubber prices had fallen by around Rs 40 a kg within a month and over the last one year by about Rs 100. He said that the fall was due to the pro-tyre-lobby import policy of the Centre. Imports had risen to unprecedented levels, thus dipping domestic prices.

Joseph said that while the domestic prices had fallen, the tyre industry, the main consumer of rubber, had jacked up the prices of tyres.

He also said that the Centre had, in February, decided to impose 20 per cent duty on rubber imports, but was yet to enforce the increased duty rate. He wanted the Government to immediately enforce the duty.

He claimed that rubber farmers can meet up to 93 per cent of the demand of the Indian industry and hence, there was no need for imports.

The current domestic price is below Rs 160 a kg (for RSS-4), and because global prices are lower, the tyre industry prefers to import.

Govt cuts floor price for exports to \$260/tonne

New Delhi, Oct. 30: The Government has reduced the floor price for wheat exports by \$40 a tonne to \$260. This is to make Indian wheat shipments more viable in the global market. On Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the cut in minimum export price or floor price to \$260 a tonne from the earlier \$300, official sources said. This follows the poor response to the recent tenders floated by State entities — STC, MMTC and PEC to export about 1.6 lakh tonnes. Against a floor price of \$300 a tonne, the bids received by these entities ranged between \$260 and \$267 a tonne, forcing the Government to drop the price.

The Government has decided to ship out wheat to cut surplus stocks and create space for other cereals such as rice, for which paddy procurement is currently on in Punjab and Haryana. The State entities had exported 4.2 mt of wheat in fiscal 2012-13 and the value of these shipments was \$1.4 billion. The average price fetched by the Indian wheat stood at \$311.38 per tonne last fiscal.

Speculative buying lifts castorseed futures



Rajkot, Oct. 30: Castor futures moved up on the back of speculative buying by traders.

Moreover, supply has also declined as festival mood grips the market for Diwali. On the other hand, the oilseed was traded flat on the spot with normal local demand.

On the NCDEX, castor November contract increased Rs 23 to Rs 3,623 a quintal with an open interest of 84,130 lots.

NCDEX January contract gained Rs 34 to

Rs 3,891 with an open interest of 141,850 lots. On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX), castor for December was traded higher by Rs 15 to Rs 3,733 a quintal. RCX spot price was unchanged at Rs 3,460. Castor oil was traded at Rs 725 for 10 kg.

About 18,000-20,000 bags of castor seed arrived in Gujarat against yesterday's 28,000-30,000 bags. Price at APMCs was quoted at Rs 695-702 for 20 kg. In Saurashtra, about 2,800-3,000 bags arrived and price stood at Rs 650-680.

Traders said that there was a decline in spot demand marginally since the past few days. With this, arrival also decreased due to holiday mood. But in the futures traders have started covering on the expectation of fresh export demand after Diwali.

Farmers' agitation delays sugarcane crushing



Mumbai, Oct. 30: Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled steady on Wednesday except S-grade which declined by Rs 10 a quintal due to fair quality. *Naka* and mill tender rates were unchanged for the ninth consecutive day.

Meanwhile, agitation by farmers for higher sugarcane price in main producing States has triggered fear about the further delay in crushing and output. An industry observer said that lower sugar prices at domestic level, extended rainfall and agitation by farmers for higher cane price and payment will lead to delay in crushing and lower production.

On the other hand, glut in world market has minimised the chances of Indian exports. On Tuesday, mills kept their tenders open as there were fewer buyers. However, producers were not very keen to sell at lower price, considering higher cost of production. The current market prices are ruling below production cost and hence there is a little chance for market price to go down further.

Arrivals in Vashi market continued to be at 61-62 truckloads (100 bags each) while local dispatches were also 61-62 loads. On Tuesday, 8-10 mills sold about 18,000-20,000 bags at Rs 2,700-2,840 (Rs 2,700-2,840) for S-grade and Rs 2,880-3,000 (Rs 2,880-3,000) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,886-3,025 (Rs 2,896-3,025) and M-grade Rs 3,012-3,221 (Rs 3,012-3,231). **Naka delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,840-2,880 (Rs 2,840-2,880) and M-grade Rs 2,950-3,120 (Rs 2,950-3,120).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,310 and Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,220.

Feed products to rule unchanged



Karnal, Oct. 30: Heavy fluctuation in the prices of its input materials kept poultry feed prices unaltered this week.

Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert, told *Business Line* that too much fluctuation in prices of key ingredients kept feed prices unchanged.

This week, soyameal and DRB have witnessed a good uptrend, while bajra and maize have witnessed some downward correction.

“There has been too much volatility in the market over the last few days and we were waiting for the prices to stabilise and feed products may continue to rule without alteration for the next few days,” he said.

In the physical market, soyameal went

up by Rs 830 and was at Rs 33,900 a tonne while bajra witnessed some correction and dropped by Rs 300 to Rs 12,500 a quintal.

Di-calcium phosphate went down by Rs 1.80 to Rs 34.40 a kg, MBM sold at Rs 30 a kg, while maize dropped by Rs 10 to Rs 1,490 a quintal. Rice bran oil moved up by Re 1 to Rs 60 a kg, DRB increased by Rs 300 to Rs 8,800, while mustard de-oiled cake gained Rs 100 at Rs 14,800 a tonne.

Feed products

Broiler concentrate was quoted at Rs 1,960 for a 50-kg bag while Broiler Starter Mash was sold at Rs 1,500. Pre-lay mash sold at Rs 1,025.

Layer concentrate 25 per cent was sold at Rs 1,465 while Layer concentrate 35 per cent was at Rs 1,150.

Poultry Products

Meanwhile, a mixed trend was witnessed in the poultry products market on Wednesday. Broiler dropped by Rs 9 and quoted at Rs 50-51 a kg, egg inched up to Rs 3.51, while chick went for Rs 18-20, up Rs 2.

No takers for 60% turmeric in Erode markets



Erode, Oct. 30: Only 40 per cent of the turmeric that arrived was sold on Wednesday in Erode following slack demand.

“Buyers, mainly local traders and stockists, procured only 1,472 bags due to the arrival of inferior quality and want of demand. Because of the arrival of medium and inferior variety, buyers quoted lower price for the commodity. Further, no exporter has received fresh upcountry order and the local traders

also did not receive any fresh order. Considering the situation, it is quite impossible for prices to increase in the near future,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that normally the exporters and traders in Erode receive good quantity of upcountry order for Diwali, but this year they have received very poor orders. Further, traders and turmeric exporters are reluctant to build inventories as its price is sliding everyday.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,696-5,981; the root variety Rs 3,496-5,056 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,711-6,027 and the root variety Rs 4,599-5,860. Of the 1,095 bags that arrived, only 401 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,291-5,896 and the root variety Rs 4,793-5,095. Of the 902 bags on sale, 632 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 4,299-5,929 and the root variety Rs 4,229-4,812. All the 216 bags put up for sale were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,388-5,880 and the root variety Rs 3,699-4,959. Of the 302 bags on offer, 285 were traded.

Edible oils turn hot on firm futures



Mumbai, Oct. 30: Edible oils prices shot up on Wednesday, tracking a firm futures market. Local refineries increased their rates for palmolein by Rs 7-11 and for soyabean refined oil by Rs 5-11 for 10kg.

Domestic soya oil futures gained almost two per cent on fear of heavy crop loss in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

On the Bombay Commodity Exchange, imported palmolein and soyabean refined oil increased by Rs 10 each. Cotton refined oil was up by Rs 8.

Groundnut, rapeseed and sunflower oil

ruled unchanged.

Sources said that activities were limited in resale resell for ready or nearby delivery.

Higher closing of Malaysian palm oil futures and firm projection for Chicago soya oil futures kept the sentiment was bullish in physical markets.

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 597, super palmolein Rs 630 and super deluxe Rs 650, soyabean refined oil Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil Rs 810. quoted palmolein Rs 593 ex-JNPT for November 5 and Rs 595 ex Patalganga for November 1-20, super palmolein Rs 627 for November 1-20, soyabean refined oil Rs 711 for October and sunflower refined oil Rs 755 for November 5-15. Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 595-600, super palmolein Rs 627, super deluxe Rs 647, soyabean refined oil Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil Rs 820.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil declined by Rs 35 to Rs 1,285 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) dipped by Rs 25 to Rs 825.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's November futures closed higher at MYR 2,585 (MYR 2,527), December at MYR 2,557 (MYR 2,507) and January at MYR 2,547 (MYR 2,498).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 850 (850), soya refined oil 710 (700), sunflower exp. ref. 705 (710), sunflower ref. 780 (785), rapeseed ref. oil 752 (752), rapeseed expeller ref. 722 (722) cottonseed ref. oil 698 (690) and palmolein 590 (580).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 665/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein November delivery.

Rally in pulses ahead on fears of crop damage



Indore, Oct. 30: Pulses and pulse seeds continued to witness an uptrend in Indore mandis on strong festival demand in pulses and buying support from millers for the second consecutive week. With demand outstripping arrivals, tur (Maharashtra) in Indore mandis has risen to Rs 4,650 (up Rs 100 from last week), while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 3,900-4,000 a quintal. Rise in tur and other pulse seeds has been attributed to increased buying support from millers and traders ahead of Diwali festival. Bullish trend in tur and

other pulse seeds are likely to continue as demand in pulses will likely to continue in the coming days.

Rise in spot tur and strong buying support in pulses further lifted its dal with tur dal (full) in Indore mandis on Wednesday being quoted at Rs 6,500-6,800 (Rs 6,300-6,400 last week), tur dal (full) rose to Rs 6,000-6,200 (Rs 5,800-5,900), while tur dal marka ruled at Rs 7,100. Slack arrival and strong demand in best quality urad further lifted its prices in the past one week by Rs 400 with urad (bold) being quoted at Rs 4,400-4,700, while urad (medium) has risen to Rs 3,700-4,000 (up Rs 200 from last week). With arrival remaining on the lower side on account of damage to the crops due to heavy rains and lesser import deals, rally in urad is likely continue in the coming days, said a trader.

Urad dal (medium) was at Rs 4,900-5,100 (Rs 4,800-4,900), urad dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,200-5,400, while urad mongar ruled at Rs 5,500-5,900.

Moong and its dal ruled firm on subdued demand and buying support with moong (bold) remaining firm at Rs 5,400-5,500, while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,700-5,000 (up Rs 200 from last week).

Given extensive damage to the crop this year due to rains, rally in moong will also likely to continue in coming days.

Moong dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 6,450-6,750 (Rs 6,300-6,400), moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,850-7,250, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,050-7,350 a quintal respectively.
