

TOUR REPORT IN RESPECT OF TOUR TO NEW DELHI TO ATTEND INTER-STATE CONFERENCE ON PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME IN THE NAFED HEADQUARTERS ON 15.9.01.

The meeting was held as scheduled at 10.30 AM on 15.9.2001 under the chairmanship of Shri. J.N.L. Srivastav, Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation, GOI. It was attended by Secretaries dealing with Agriculture/Cooperation in major khariff oilseeds producing states such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. and also by the Managing Directors of the Cooperative marketing federations responsible for procuring foodgrains under PSS in these states. I made the following submission in the meeting:

The A&N Administration has the following 5 concerns:

1. Resumption of procurement of copra suspended since 10.8.2001: I mentioned that copra production was the mainstay of the tribal farmers in the southern group of Islands and in the absence of procurement of copra, their financial condition had been adversely affected. Given the geographical and topographical conditions prevailing in the southern group of islands, other than copra and arecanut, practically no other crops grow in these islands. Therefore it was essential to continue to support the farmers by procuring copra.
2. Immediate procurement of copra that has accumulated since the suspension of procurement: I informed Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) that approximately 770 tonnes of copra has accumulated in the godowns of tribal cooperative societies which do the procurement. The financial implication of procuring this copra would come to approximately Rs. 2.18 crores ($770 \times 2840 = 2186800$) which was a small amount for the GOI but it