

crops under MSP (Minimum Support Price) one of which is that the crop should be non-perishable in nature (F/C). I reiterated that arecanut was a non-perishable crop like coconut having relatively long shelf life and therefore should be provided price support. Secretary(A&C) observed that it would be possible to cover arecanut under MIS (Market Intervention Scheme) under which half of the cost of the operations is to be borne by the state/UT government. He suggested that we may raise the matter with MHA seeking their budgetary support. Further proposal for this has to be sent to the Agriculture Ministry in the format prescribed for MIS. If approved this could be communicated to the Agriculture Deptt. for further necessary action at their end.

5. MIS for Palm Oil : I also reminded that a proposal both from the A&N Islands Forest Plantation Development Corporation (F/D) and from the UT Admn. (F/E) for introduction of MIS for palm oil was pending with the Agriculture Ministry and a decision in this regard needs to be taken by them. It was clarified by them that while a corporation was not entitled for any support under this scheme, the administration's proposal could be considered as the objective behind the scheme is to help the farmers. However I would like to mention here that red palm oil is not being grown by the farmers as such - it is only being grown in a limited area in Little Andaman by the Forest Development Corporation(ANIFPDC). Therefore it is really for consideration whether the administration can/should pursue this matter.