

While Secretary(A&C) assured that copra procurement would be resumed he stated that it may actually get into effect only by the end of this month as they need some time to arrange the finances for this purpose. Instructions are also being issued for the immediate release of pending payments.

In addition, Secretary(A&C) pointed out that as NAFED needs time to dispose of the crops procured by them, in future it may not be possible for them to procure copra round the year. They favoured a system whereby copra may be procured only for 3 months in a year. And they wanted us to specify the 3 months most suitable to us. In this regard I stated that as copra was a perennial crop being harvested round the year, its procurement for only 3 months in a year would result in accumulation of large stocks and again would result in the financial condition of tribal farmers becoming quite bad during the remaining parts of the year. Therefore I sought special consideration for our territory and suggested that if at all procurement is to be time-restricted it should be for atleast 6 months in a year for our UT. As state government officers were asked to give their views in this regard on a format, I recorded these views in the format which I submitted.

Secretary(A&C) further suggested that for the remaining part of the year when copra could not be procured by the NAFED, the UT Admn. may consider supporting the farmers under other schemes such as those for tribal welfare either under the UT Plan budget /