

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the small farm holdings, a good number of manual, animal drawn and power tiller operated farm equipment for land preparation, sowing, spraying, harvesting and threshing have been developed in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is operating two All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), namely, AICRP on Utilization of Animal Energy (UAE) having 7 centres and AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery (FIM) having 23 centres located in different State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes to develop location specific farm tools and equipment to meet the needs of the small, medium and large farmers in the country.

Encouragement for organic farming

†17. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to announce minimum support price of various cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits to encourage organic farming, is under Government's consideration, so that the farmers could get fair price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) There is no scheme under Government's consideration to announce minimum support price of organically produced cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits.

(c) The Government is already promoting organic farming and the growth in demand for organic produce is substantial.

Impurity of milk

†18. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the scientists of National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) milk produced by 30 to 37 per cent cattles is impure and causes spread of diseases;

(b) whether according to the scientists of NDRI the reason behind it is lack of awareness amongst cattlemen;

(c) whether Government is planning to create awareness among cattlemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. NDRI scientists was misquoted in a newspaper against which the Institute issued necessary clarification. However, to create awareness amongst cattlemen, NDRI regularly conducts training for dairy farmers on different facets of clean milk production. The Department of Animal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.