

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Reports of various Agricultural Census show that the average size of land holdings in the country declined as follows: 2.28 hectare in the year 1970-71, 2.0 hectare in 1976-77, 1.84 hectare in 1980-81, 1.69 hectare in 1985-86, 1.55 hectare in 1990-91 and 1.41 hectare in the year 1995-96.

(d) to (e) Land and its management falls within the jurisdiction of States as provided under the Constitution. The Ministry of Rural Development monitors land reform programmes implemented by the States/UTs including distribution of Government Wasteland to the eligible poor. Successive Five Year Plans have also been laying stress on the consolidation of fragmented land holdings for increased agricultural output.

Some of the initiatives of the Government include promotion of contract farming and cooperative farming.

MSP of Gwar, Moth, etc.

†1804. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gwar, Moth, Dhania, Jeera, Methi and Isabgol are the important crops of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons for not including these crops under Minimum Support Price Scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering to announce the support price of the said crops;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the average annual production of these crops, in Rajasthan and how do they compare with the total production in India, as well as other premier producing States?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Gwar, Moth, Dhania, Jeera, Methi and Isabgol are the important crops in Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) These crops are not covered under the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for major agricultural crops. The commodities covered under the MSP scheme are of all India importance and are mostly items of mass consumption, necessary for food/nutrition security.

(e) The production of these crops in Rajasthan, during 2004-05, varies between 41.7 thousand tonnes for Isabgol to 366.0 thousand tonnes for Gwar which is more than 40 percent of the total production of Gwar, while more than 80 percent of the total production of Moth and Methi is contributed by Rajasthan.

Ban on slaughter of cattle

†1805. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ban has been imposed on slaughter of the cattle used in farming particularly cows, oxen and their calves for the purpose of meat;

(b) if so, the names of the States where this ban has been imposed and since when alongwith the names of other States which are taking action to enact laws in this regard;

(c) whether these laws have been pronounced as legal by the courts; and

(d) if so, the details of the reasons for non-enactment of the similar law and enforcement throughout the country on uniform basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) As per the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and States, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the state legislatures have exclusive power to legislate (Entry 15 of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.