

Production of casein

†2295. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a product named casein is made from fresh milk in the country;
- (b) if so, the average annual production of this product;
- (c) the quantum of milk required to produce one kilogram of casein; and
- (d) the percentage of this product used for domestic purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Authentic data is not available with the Government.

(c) Approximately 35 kgs of milk is required to produce 1 kg. of Casein.

(d) Authentic data in terms of percentage is not available with the Government. By and large the Casein produced in the country is exported with only a negligible quantity used in the country.

Adverse effect of drought

†2296. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an adverse effect of drought on agriculture during financial year 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether any evaluation of this negative effect on agricultural produce in each State of the country has been made;
- (d) if so, the details of this evaluation; and
- (e) the names of those States where agricultural production has been found to be unaffected from drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) to (e) As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2009, the country as a whole received 698.1 mm of rainfall against the normal average rainfall of 892.2 mm with a departure of -22%, which is deficient. Consequently a number of States received deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2009 and 14 States, *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

declared 338 districts as affected by drought/scarcity/drought like situation. The Government took a number of steps which include "Diesel Subsidy" Scheme for providing supplementary irrigation to save the standing crops, allocation of additional power from Central Pool and steps to ensure availability of fertilizers and seeds, to reduce the impact of drought/deficit rainfall on various sectors including Agriculture. As per the 2nd Advance Estimates for 2009-10 as compared to the Final Estimates for 2008-09, the foodgrains production is likely to be less in a number of States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Loss of cultivable area of Assam

2297. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the permanent loss of cultivable land area of Assam during last 10 years by way of erosion, unfertile silt deposition and diversion of river channel;

(b) whether an assessment has been made as to the extent of annual loss and damage caused and steps have been taken to prevent such permanent loss to the national economy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates, the cultivable land has marginally decreased from 3.257 million ha. in 1997-98 to million ha. in 2006-07 leading to decrease in cultivable land by 0.033 million ha. in last 10 years in the State of Assam. As reported by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the soil loss in agriculture land in the Assam Valley Region is at the rate of 2850 tonnes per square kilometer.

With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and to maintain balance in different types of land uses, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various watershed development programmes namely National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in the State of Assam. Under these programmes upto 2008-09, an area of 1.93 lakh ha. has been developed in the State of Assam.

Untimely rains in Maharashtra

2298. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that 20,240 villages in Maharashtra State are facing water scarcity and many crops have been damaged due to untimely rains during 2009-10;