

#### Availability of pastureland

†3853. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:  
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that availability of pasture land for cow and other animals is decreasing in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether its reasons have been examined;
- (c) whether it's having adverse effect on production of milk and health of animals; and
- (d) the scheme under which above matter is being taken care of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reasons for gradual decrease in area under pastureland are that the majority of these lands have either been diverted for other agriculture purposes or have been encroached.

(c) Decreasing grazing area will lead to decreased availability of nutrients to the milch animals, leading to lower production and productivity.

(d) Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme throughout the country having a component of Grass Land Development including Grass Reserves. Under the component, during 2009-10, Rs. 712.05 lakh were released to the States.

#### Importance of clean milk

3854. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched any Central scheme for training and strengthening the infrastructure to create mass awareness about the importance of clean milk production amongst the cattlemen in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cattlemen trained under the scheme in Tamil Nadu since launch of the scheme; and
- (d) the role which has been assigned to Government of the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored scheme "Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production" in the country since 2004-05

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.