

Task Force for promotion of agricultural production

†1862. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force constituted by Prime Minister for promotion of agricultural products has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, when was this Task Force constituted; and

(c) whether suggestions have been made by the Task Force for augmentation of agricultural production, if so, the details thereof and the scheme to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no such Task Force constituted by the Prime Minister for promotion of agricultural products. However, based on a decision taken by “Core Group of Central Ministers and State Chief Ministers on Prices of Essential Commodities” in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Working Group on Agriculture Production under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Haryana has been constituted in May, 2010. The Working Group has finalized its recommendations for submission to the Core Group.

Soil erosion

1863. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several rivers in the country are causing soil erosion;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the total area affected;

(c) whether the agricultural land is being converted into ravines due to soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to check soil erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Soil erosion is a natural process occurring in the catchment areas of the river systems. As per available estimates, out of a total geographical area of 328.73 million ha. about 146.82 million ha. (45%) area is subjected

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.