

(d) what will be the delivery mechanism for effective distribution of cash subsidy; and

(e) whether cash crop/plantation farmers will also get its benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers has been implemented only for past two years and its implementation in third year is in progress. A formal study on impact of NBS Policy including its impact on prices of fertilizers has not been conducted so far.

(c) and (d) Presently, the subsidy provided on fertilizers is being released through fertilizer companies. All the farmers are getting the benefit of subsidy in the form of subsidized fertilizers. As and when the scheme of 'Direct Subsidy to Farmers (DSF)' is implemented, it would be applicable to all the farmers. Under the scheme of DSF, the subsidy would be transferred directly to the Bank accounts of the farmers. The Bank accounts shall be linked to AADHAR number of the farmers for the purpose of identification and authentication through AADHAR enabled payment bridges.

(e) Presently, there is no proposal to restrict the usage of subsidized fertilizers to any types of crops.

Slaughtering of milch animals

1416. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to stop slaughtering of milch animals;

(b) the schemes Government have to encourage rearing of milch animals; and

(c) the total number of milch animals in the country during last three years, year-wise and the schemes introduced by Government to increase their number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) As per the distribution of legislative power between Union and States, the slaughtering of animals is a matter on which the States legislature has exclusive power to legislate (entry of list II of the 7th Schedule of Constitution). States/UTs have legislations on banning or restricting slaughtering of milch animals within their respective jurisdictions.

(b) Government is implementing following schemes to encourage rearing of milch animals:

- i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
- ii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- iii) Intensive Dairy Development Programme
- iv) National Dairy Plan-I
- v) Livestock Health and Disease Control
- vi) Centrally Sponsored Fodder and Feed Development Scheme
- vii) Livestock Insurance

(c) The total number of milch animals as per livestock census 2003 and 2007 is presented in the following table:

	(in million)	
Category of animal	2003	2007
Crossbred cattle	11.23	14.41
Indigenous Cattle	46.86	48.04
Buffalo	47.22	48.64
TOTAL	105.31	111.09

In order to supplement and complement the efforts made by the States in development and increasing number of milch animals Government is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Details of these schemes is given in Statement.

Statement

Schemes being implemented by the Department having component for development and increasing number of milch animals

Centrally Sponsored

1. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
2. Intensive Dairy Development Programme
3. Livestock Health and Disease Control

4. Livestock Health and Disease Control
5. Livestock Insurance

Central Sector Scheme

1. National Dairy Plan-I
2. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
3. Central Cattle Development Organization
4. Central Fodder Development Organization

Profitable prices of produce to farmers

1417. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers do not get profitable price of their produce due to which they are losing interest in agriculture ceaselessly; and

(b) if so, the action being taken to provide profitable price to farmers for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments to ensure a minimum return to the growers. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce in case the market prices fall below that level. If the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price.

The agriculture sector has grown at an average of 3.3% per annum in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as compared to 2.3% during Tenth Five Year Plan. The total number of cultivators has also increased since 1951.