

(e) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh had earlier requested for including oil palm in the list of crops identified for announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Under the MSP Scheme those commodities are covered which are mostly items of mass consumption of all India nature with fairly long shelf life and/or necessary for food/nutrition security.

Since oil palm is a perishable commodity, it is not covered under MSP. However, it is covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which is implemented by Ministry of Agriculture on the request of State Governments, for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of fall in market prices. The above position has been communicated to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Development of dairy sector

165. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plan of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to generate a credit flow of about ₹ 400 crore for the next three years to enhance the production and efficiency of dairy farming in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of important elements of this scheme; and

(c) the other steps Government proposes to take to improve the dairy sector in Punjab and at the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) NABARD has prepared an Area Development Scheme on Dairy Development *i.e.* "Dairy Development through Improved Technique" for generating credit flow of Rs. 303.90 crores in Ludhiana and Rupnagar Districts of Punjab over a period of three years. The project has been prepared in consultation with concerned departments of the Government of Punjab and the State government is also an important partner in the implementation of the Plan.

(b) The important elements of Area Development Scheme on Dairy are:

Sl. No.	Elements	Estimated credit flow (Rs. crore)
1.	Loans to small and marginal farmers for setting up dairy units	169.00
2.	Loans to SHG/JLG members for dairy farming	42.80
3.	Loans to commercial dairy units	34.00
4.	Credit for Modernization and expansion of milk plant	29.00
5.	Loans for Installation of Bulk Milk Coolers, Milking Parlour etc.	15.00
6.	Strengthening infrastructure of milk societies	11.00
7.	Setting up of Common Service Centres (Silage Making, Feed Mixing, Indigenous Milk processing, packaging etc.)	1.30
8.	Loans for setting up of dairy marketing outlets	1.00
9.	Setting up agri clinic/AI Centre	0.80
TOTAL:		303.90

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes for Dairy Development in the country including Punjab.

1. Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)*
2. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (SIQ&CMP)
3. Assistance to Cooperatives (A to C)
4. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS).
5. National Dairy Plan (Phase-I)

*'Intensive Dairy Development Programme' (IDDP) is being implemented in hilly and backward areas including the districts, which have received less than Rs.50.00 lakh for dairy development activities during Operation Flood Programme. As per this provision, Punjab is not eligible for assistance under IDDP Scheme.

In addition to this State Government of Punjab has initiated the following steps to improve the dairy sector in Punjab:

- Genetic up-gradation by importing superior germ plasm as well as sexed semen.
- Improvement and strengthening of dairy education, training and extension services.
- Expansion of dairy farming facilitating opening of new dairy farms.
- Encouraging commercialization and modernization of dairy farming.

Appropriate price to small farmers for their produces

†166. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to implement any scheme in favour of the small farmers of the country to provide the producers appropriate price for their agricultural products during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the mechanism in place for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for the crops covered under MSP to ensure a minimum return to farmers including small farmers. However, farmers are free to sell in the open market if it offers a higher price than MSP.

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.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.