

Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc. in the country.

#### **MSP for wheat**

785. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed no change in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat at Rs. 1285 per quintal for 2013-14 season but has suggested a bonus of Rs. 130 per quintal over and above MSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food Ministry has opposed the proposal and suggested to go with the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and retain MSP for wheat at the last years level of Rs. 1285/-; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

MSP for wheat for 2012-13 has not yet been finalized.

#### **Spread of bird flu**

786. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that bird flu is causing worry to poultry farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that export of Indian poultry products is banned; and

(d) if so, how many countries have banned Indian poultry products and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Bird flu is a highly contagious disease resulting in huge economic losses in terms of high mortality of birds, culling of birds, fall in production and disruption of trade of poultry and poultry products, thus is a cause of worry to poultry farmers. However, the number of cases of bird flu in the country during the current financial year has not increased in comparison to the ones 5 reported during last financial year. The State Governments are in the state of preparedness, also well equipped and well experienced in carrying out the control and containment operations. In past 12 occurrences, including the last one at CPDO, Hessarghatta, Bangalore, the disease was contained and controlled at the source itself.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Industry and the Indian Embassies, countries such as Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia had imposed ban on import of poultry products from India due to bird flu. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), had taken up the matter with Indian Missions in these countries with a request to take up the issue with the respective authorities for lifting up the ban.

#### **Use of bull in agriculture**

787. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the ratio of man and animal in 1947 and at present;
- (b) the policy of Government regarding use of bull in agriculture; and
- (c) whether Government encourage use of bull in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The man and animal ratio (livestock) in 1947 and at present is presented in the following table: