

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The total number of post offices located in different parts of the country as on 31.3.2012 is 1,54,822.

(b) The Department has engaged a Consultant to examine the feasibility of setting up of a Post Bank. The report of the Consultant is awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Protection of domestic cows

3411. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is importing cows from Europe and other western countries for increasing the production of milk;

(b) if so, whether it has any impact on the Indian society and its agrarian economy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is taking any measure to preserve and protect the domestic animals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (c) Government is not importing dairy cows from European and other western countries to increase the production of milk.

(d) and (e) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the States in development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds Government of India is implementing the following schemes for genetic upgradation of bovine population with a focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)

(ii) National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I)

(iii) Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBFs)

(iv) Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS)

(v) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute (CFSP&TI)

Growth rate of foodgrain production *vis-a-vis* population

3412. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of foodgrain production is lesser than the growth rate of population in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the both growth rates during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) and (b) As per data of Population Census 2001 and the provisional figures for Census 2011, the decadal growth rate of population in the country during 2001-2011 has been 17.64% *i.e.* an average annual growth rate of 1.76%. As against this, the average annual growth rates of foodgrain production in the country during the last three years *i.e.* 2009-10 to 2011-12 has been 3.73%.

(c) In order to increase the production of foodgrains in the country, Government is implementing a number of Crop Development Schemes/Programmes, namely: National Food Security Mission (NFSM). Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) through State Governments. In addition to above schemes, during 2010-11, two new programmes *viz.* Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in Rainfed Areas have been initiated under RKVY. Further, a new programme "Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P)" in the form of block demonstrations has also been started in 16 pulses growing States of the country.