

**MSP failing to serve its purpose**

2227. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the policy of Minimum Support Price (MSP) has failed to serve its purpose particularly for crops like wheat and paddy, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government would abolish the system of MSP for wheat and paddy; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices.

MSP is one of the factors instrumental in increasing the production of foodgrains including rice and wheat and their availability to the consumers.

**Production and distribution of milk**

2228. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India had been the largest milk producing nation since 1998;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that since 1951, the milk production has increased to 137 million tonnes from 20 million tonnes; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that while the per capita milk availability has gone up from 120 grams to 300 grams. The distribution is still not at the desired level, if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, India is the largest milk producing country in the World since 1998.