

small and marginal farmers own 70.34% of cattle and buffaloes in the country. In order to supplement and complement the efforts made by the States in making milk production profitable and also to provide benefits to farmers for cattle and buffalo breeding; livestock health; animal nutrition and livestock insurance. Government is implementing following programmes:

- (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development
- (ii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- (iii) National Dairy Plan-I
- (iv) National Livestock Mission
- (v) Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

Fixing MSP with 50 per cent profit margin

523. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to offer Minimum Support Price (MSP) with 50 per cent profit margin, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would provide a time-frame for implementing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by CACP based on objective criteria, considering variety of relevant factors and prescribing an increase of at least 50% of cost may distort the market.

Contingency plan to deal with El Nino factor

524. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the outlook for this year's rainy season has turned bleaker with Meteorological Department releasing its El Nino prediction, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) what contingency plans Government has put in place to deal with El Nino factor?