

(d) In Khurja-Saharanpur Section of Eastern DFC, out of the total scope of 759 Hectare, land acquisition award has been completed for 174 Hectare (as on 30.6.2016) and out of the total compensation of ₹153 crore awarded, ₹102 crore compensation has been paid (as on 30.6.2016).

Improving the condition of co-operative milk associations

†*297. SHRIDIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's plans for improving the condition of co-operative milk associations; and

(b) whether, in view of the fact that dairy is a complementary business of agriculture, Government would provide loan at zero per cent interest to farmers for purchasing of cattle as has been done under law for agricultural activities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India has been implementing the following dairy development schemes to improve the condition of milk cooperatives across the country:

(i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD)

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

(b) No, Sir. However, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). This is a credit linked scheme, wherein back ended capital subsidy at the rate of 25% for General category and 33.33% for SC/ST category is provided for various dairy related activities including purchasing of cattle subject to norms of the scheme. This helps in reducing the interest burden on the beneficiary.

Revisiting the MSP formula

*298. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRARAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the criticism that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) does not factor in fully the actual costs at the farmers' end and that it is tilted in favour of urban consumers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to revisit the MSP concept/ formula to protect the farmers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments. Before finalizing its recommendations, CACP holds consultations with various stakeholders including State Governments and farmers' representatives. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers, *inter alia*, a number of important factors which include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. The cost of production, *inter alia*, includes all paid out costs and imputed value of family labour (A2+FL).

The data on cost of cultivation/production are made available to the Commission which are collected on scientific basis through State Agricultural Universities/Institutions located in various states under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops, operated by the Ministry.

(b) Methodology for estimating the cost of production is reviewed from time to time. A Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand the then Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research and present Member of NITI Aayog in 2013, to examine the methodological issues in fixing Minimum Support Prices has submitted its Report. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

**PMO's direction to cut down on litigations involving
Ministries/Departments/PSUs**

*299. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PMO has issued directions to cut down on litigations involving Ministries/Departments and PSUs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how the Government would ensure that these directions are complied with;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently the Supreme Court also remarked that State-run Corporations fight long battles with each other on tax payers' money; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?