

The above two proposals could not be taken forward in view of huge throwforward of ongoing projects, limited availability of resources for new line projects and other competing demands. However, Ministry of Defence (MoD) were requested in August, 2013 to convey their views for fully financing the construction of Jaisalmer-Barmer new line project on strategic grounds due to its proximity to international border. MoD have not included this project in the list of 14 strategically important projects identified by them.

Jaisalmer-Bhabhar (338.94 kms) new line project has been proposed in Railway Capital Investment Programme 2016-17 in anticipation of State Governments coming forward to take the project through Joint Venture with State Governments.

Since the project is not sanctioned, no amount has been spent.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Bonus in addition to MSP to food items

1342. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has granted any bonus in addition to Minimum Support Price (MSP) to any food items like onion and other similar crops, whose prices are highly fluctuating in the same way as it has granted to pulses like tur, moong and urad dal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government does not announce Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and bonus for onion and other similar perishable crops.

Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major commercial crops and agricultural produce which generally have fairly long shelf life and are necessary for food/nutrition security.

Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of State/UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop

when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

Milk yielding capacity of cows

1343. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the milk yield of Indian cows has decreased because of climate change;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve the milk yielding capacity of Indian cows;

(c) whether National Dairy Research and Development Board has sought more aid for Research and Development in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As informed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) there is no conclusive evidence that the milk yield of Indian cows has decreased because of Climate change.

(b) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the States to increase milk production and productivity of Indian cows Government of India is implementing following schemes:

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

(ii) Rashtriya Gokul Mission part of NPBBDD

(iii) National Dairy Plan-I

(c) and (d) As informed by ICAR the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) has already received assistance and institute is working on this line.

Assistance to Myanmar in agriculture

†1344. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating upon providing assistance to Myanmar in the field of agriculture;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.