

in the district courts for more than five years, additional incentives for the Judges of the district judiciary be considered where feasible; and (v) efforts be made for strengthening case-flow management rules.

Palm cultivation in the country

*191. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of palm cultivation in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to encourage farmers to take up palm cultivation in identified places across the country, which have suitable climatic conditions, in order to meet the ever increasing demand for edible oils, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to reduce its dependence on imported edible oil by encouraging farmers to take up palm cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Oil palm cultivation assumes significance for augmenting the indigenous availability of edible oils in the country. So far, an area of 3.00 lakh hectares has been covered under oil palm cultivation in the country. Andhra Pradesh is the major State covering more than 1.50 lakh hectares under oil palm cultivation followed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Odisha. During the year 2015-16, the production of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) of oil palm and Crude Palm Oil (CPO) was 12.82 lakh tonnes and 2.17 lakh tonnes, respectively.

(b) National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is being implemented from 2014-15 in order to increase the production of edible oils. Mini Mission-II of NMOOP is dedicated to oil palm area expansion and improving the productivity. The scheme is being implemented in 12 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Under the Mission, financial assistance is being provided to the farmers for the planting materials, maintenance of new plantations for four years, inputs for inter-cropping in oil palm during gestation period, installation of drip-irrigation systems, diesel/electric pump-sets, bore-well/water harvesting structures/ponds, construction of vermi-compost units, purchasing of machinery and harvesting tools etc. The Mission is also supporting Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR), Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh for undertaking need based research and development activities on oil palm, establishment of seed garden and supply of planting materials.

(c) During recent years, Government of India initiated Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of FFBS to ensure financial support to oil palm growers as and when the international prices of CPO falls below \$ 800/- per tonne.

Basis for drawing electoral boundaries

*192. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for drawing electoral boundaries on the basis of the district population, instead of the constituency population;

(b) whether any malpractice in redistricting has been reported since 2002, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure checks and balances in electoral redistricting along with the associated grievance redressal mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) Under the provisions of articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution, the division of each State into territorial constituencies and allocation of seats in the House of People and the State Legislative Assemblies shall be readjusted upon completion of each census by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine. Population is the basis of such division of States into territorial constituencies. The last such division of States into territorial constituencies was carried out based on the population of 2001 Census.

2. In terms of the provisions of the aforesaid articles, the Delimitation Act, 2002 was enacted envisaging constitution of a Delimitation Commission. As per the guidelines and methodology adopted by the Delimitation Commission so constituted in terms of section 3 of the said Act, for the purpose of delimitation of constituencies, the average population in each constituency in the district was worked out by dividing the total population of the district with the number of seats allocated to that district. Thereafter, the areas of each district was divided into the requisite number of Assembly Constituencies having regard to the average population per constituency in the district, with a permissible deviation of 10% plus or minus from the district average.

3. In terms of the provisions of the section 7 (1) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the Delimitation Commission was vested with the powers to determine its own procedure in the performance of its powers. The methodology adopted by the said Delimitation Commission had sufficient inbuilt checks and balances in the procedure adopted for division of the States into Assembly/Parliamentary Constituencies. No instance of malpractice has come to the notice of the Government.