

Federation Ltd., Bhopal has submitted proposals for dairy development only in Jhabua, Balaghat, Chindwara, Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Sheopur, Seoni, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Raisen-Vidisha, Hoshangabad districts under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Dairy Development Programme" (IDDP) during the year 2005 and 2006.

Projects covering districts of Jhabua, Balaghat, Chindwara, Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Sheopur, Seoni have been approved. Project proposals in respect of the districts of Burhanpur, Khandwa, Raisen-Vidisha, Hoshangabad were examined in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and observations were conveyed to State Government.

Proposals for Bhopal, Sihor, Shajapur, Devas, Ratlam, and Morena districts have not been received in the Department.

MSP for coarse cereals

2626. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to introduce Minimum Support Price for coarse cereals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government announces, every year, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for specified agricultural commodities, including coarse cereals *viz.* jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and barley.

Declining foodgrains production and increasing population

†2627. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant decline in foodgrains production of the country due to rising trend of cash crops, increasing population and expansion of industrial-commercial activities;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that during the last four years while population has increased by 8 per cent, the production of foodgrains has declined by 8 per cent as a result of which the number of persons suffering from malnutrition is increasing;
- (c) whether Government have prepared any action plan to contain the situation of slowly creeping starvation and to increase the foodgrains production so as to bring diversification in rural life; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Following table gives the data on production of foodgrains in the country during the last five years:

	(Million Tonnes)				
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Foodgrains Production	174.77	213.19	198.36	208.60	216.13

*As per 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

Foodgrains production shows an increasing trend. Year 2002-03 was a drought year, while the monsoon rainfall in 2004-05 was 13% less than its Long Period Average which adversely affected the foodgrains production.

(b) As per the projections given by the office of the Registrar General of India, population of India stood at 1062.39 millions as on 1st March 2003 and at 1128.52 millions as on 1st March 2007 showing an increase of 6.2% in population as compared to an increase of 23.7% in foodgrains production during this period. Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem whose important determinants are high rate of population growth, inadequate food and levels of poverty and income distribution.

(c) and (d) To increase agricultural production, Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programmes (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals are in place from October 2000. To increase the productivity of pulses and maize Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004. The Government of India has recently approved two schemes viz. (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector which, in turn, is envisaged to improve the over all growth of the sector.

Besides, Government is addressing the problem of malnutrition through national programme of nutritional support to primary education (Mid-day Meal Programme), nutrition programme for adolescent girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains, the targeted public distribution system (PDS) by making essential food items available at subsidized costs and also through several income generating schemes to improve the purchasing power.

Technology for small and marginal farmers

2628. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small and marginal farmers are largely constrained due to the absence of simple and low cost technologies suited to small plots which can be managed by them;