

Production of Betel Leaf

*323. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Ministers of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa is a major betel leaf growing State in the country;

(b) the details of betel leaf produced during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the government are earning foreign exchange from the export of betel leaf; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage its production for boosting its export?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Orissa is among the major betel leaf growing States in the country.

(b) Official estimates on State-wise area and production of betel leaves for last two years are not available. However, as per rough estimates, an area of 40,000 h.a. with an annual turnover of Rs. 700 crores has been estimated under betel leaf cultivation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage betel leaf cultivation and export include prophylactic action against disease outbreak, research by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on various aspects of disease and productivity including

screening of germplasm, biological/chemical control and use of different manures, fertilizers and micro-nutrients for increasing productivity. Government of India are implementing various schemes to promote the export of agricultural and processed foods which are available to betel leaf growers also.

Milk Production

*324. SRI NAWAL KISHORE RAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of milk during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90, State wise;

(b) whether there is shortfall in production of milk during the current year due to cyclic depression;

(c) if so, the reasons for this cyclic depression; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the cyclic depression in milk production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) A Statement showing the Statewise estimates of production of milk during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 is enclosed.

(b) Estimates of milk production for the current year are not yet available. Thus, it is difficult to conclude that there is a shortfall in production of milk during the year due to cyclic depression.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.