

Milk Production

4961. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk production in this country has increased in recent years;

(b) if so, the details of milk production in the States and Union Territories during the past three years;

(c) the steps taken to increase milk production in the coming years; and

(d) the incentives provided to the private sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINTHAN) (a). Yes Sir. Milk production in the year 1973-74 was estimated at 23.2 million tonnes. It has increased to an estimated figure of 30.3 million tonnes in 1979-80.

(b) Based on the available information, the milk production in the country is estimated at 27.6, 29.2 and 30.3 million tonnes for 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80 respectively.

(c) Cross-breeding of indigenous cattle with exotic breeds has been taken up on a massive scale for rapid increase in milk production. Artificial Insemination and frozen semen technology using high quality breeding bulls are being employed at progressively increasing scale for improving milk production potential. Seven cattle/buffalo breeding farms have been set up in Central Sector to produce and supply pedigreed/proven bulls for breeding purposes with a view to improve the productivity of indigenous cattle. Besides this, there are 144 cattle breeding farms in the States and Union Territories to produce quality bulls. Intensive Cattle Development Projects and Key Village Blocks numbering about 97 and 600 respectively are being strengthened and such new pro-

jects will be set up. Programme for progeny testing of breeding bulls has been taken up. A Centrally sponsored scheme for scientific development of selected gaushalas is also being proposed. A programme to rear cross-bread female calves by small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers is being implemented. Due emphasis is also given for production of green and leguminous fodders. Various preventive and curative livestock health measures have been taken up. Improved marketing and milk processing facilities are also being attended to for remunerative returns to cattle/buffalo owners and elimination of middleman.

(d) Good quality semen of improved bulls are made available to farmers at a nominal cost.

Incentives are being provided for augmentation of nutritious fodder production having direct bearing on milk production, in the form of fodder minikit (Central Sector Scheme). In these minikits seeds of high yielding varieties are supplied to farmers free of cost alongwith packages of practices and appropriate rhizobium culture in cases of leguminous seeds. Over 10,000 minikits are supplied annually, each sufficient to cover 0.1 hectre. Seven regional stations for forage production and demonstration set up by the Government of India in different States also carry out similar extension/demonstrative activities to popularise the improved/high yielding fodder varieties. These stations conduct 1600 demonstrations annually.

Central and State Governments subsidise polyvalent vaccine against Foot and Mouth disease for protecting exotic and cross-bread female cattle owned by the small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers upto first lactation. In most of the States and Union Territories free veterinary aid and disease diagnostic facilities are provided besides free preventive vaccination against common prevalent infectious diseases.