

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

Criteria for Holidays

3273. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Shivratri festival has not been included in the list of Holidays either gazetted or restricted;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the criteria laid down for declaring the festivals as holidays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The Central Govt. administrative offices observe 17 holidays in a year. This includes 14 compulsory holidays on pre-noticed occasions. The remaining 3 holidays are selected every year from another notified list of 12 occasions, and, Shivratri is one of them. After selection of three holidays the remaining 9 occasions are included in the list of Restricted Holidays. However, during 1999, Shivratri fell on Sunday, 14th February, which is otherwise observed as weekly off.

[Translation]

Fodder for Milch Cattle

3274. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the total number of milch cattle in the country and the quantity of fodder made available to them during the last three years;
 (b) if so, the estimated number of milch cattle and per cattle quantity of fodder available to milch cattle in each State per day;
 (c) whether the quantity of fodder available to cattle is less than the quantity required for healthy life of cattle in the country; and
 (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate quantity of fodder to cattle in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Livestock population including milch cattle in the country is enumerated in quinquennial livestock census.

No systematic estimate on the quantity of fodder has been made so far. However, as per the estimate made in 1993 by Policy Advisory Group of Ministry of Environment & Forest, the total availability of dry and green fodder in the country for entire animal population was 398.68 and 573.50 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The population of milch cattle in the country as per the 1992 livestock census is given as under :-

Type of animals	Number in thousand
Indigenous milch cows	52001
Crossbred milch cows	5792
Milch buffaloes	40275

Dry and green fodder availability for the States and Union Territories is given in the enclosed Statement. The availability of green and dry fodder per day per cattle ranges from 3.3 to 20 kg & 3.4 to 6 kg respectively as per available data.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main reasons for less availability of fodder are the decrease in grassland and pasture and availability of less land for fodder cultivation. The steps taken by the Government, to improve fodder availability to cattle, in the country, are given as under :-

1. Implementation of Central Sector Scheme on Central Feed and Fodder Development organisation, comprising three components, viz (i) Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration; (ii) Central Fodder Seed Production Farm; and (iii) Central Minikit Testing Programme of Fodder Crops.
2. Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development comprising seven components :
 - (i) Strengthening of fodder seed production farm (75:25)
 - (ii) Establishment of fodder bank (75:25)
 - (iii) Seed Production through registered grower (25:75)
 - (iv) Establishment of silvipasture system (100%)
 - (v) Grassland development including grass reserves (100%)
 - (vi) Sample survey for area, requirement and production of fodder crops (100%)
 - (vii) Enrichment of straws and cellulosic wastes (100%)