

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2936
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
OPIUM GROWERS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) The state-wise number of opium growers especially in Adivasi region of the Country;
- (b) the state-wise details of production during the last year; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the cases of looting and killing of opium growers by illegal traders and the security measures taken to prevent killings of these opium growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) Licenses for cultivation of opium are granted to cultivators in the notified tracts in three states viz; Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In the last crop year 2001 in Madhya Pradesh a total of 56417 licenses were issued of which 287 were in Adivasi region. In Rajasthan out of 50245 licenses, 4809 pertain to Adivasi region. In Uttar Pradesh 26747 licenses were issued and no license pertains to Adivasi region.

(b) The details of opium production in the last crop year 2001 are as follows:

State Opium produced at 70 degree Consistency

Madhya Pradesh	272529 kgs.
Rajasthan	493562 kgs.
Uttar Pradesh	167831 kgs.

(c) At the time of collection of opium the respective Superintendents of Police of the District are requested to increase night patrolling in opium growing villages. Some of the opium cultivators of dacoit prone areas are allowed to store their opium in the nearest Police Station in safe lock custody. State Police officers are provided assistance as and when required by them. Further, weighment of opium in dacoit prone areas is undertaken on priority basis.