

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3327
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006
SUBJECT PRODUCTION OF OPIUM
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) The annual production of opium in the country in various Poppy growing States, State-wise;
- (b) The total quantum of opium out of this required for pharmaceutical preparation;
- (c) The quantum of opium exported annually;
- (d) Whether the Government is aware of the problem of Poppy growers in Rajasthan and other Poppy growing States; and
- (e) If so, the steps taken to resolve their problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a) The State-wise annual production of opium for the last four crop years is as under:

S. No. Name of State Production of opium in tones
(at 70 degree consistency)

2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06

1. Madhya Pradesh 264 509 234 219

2. Rajasthan- 387 523 211 206

3. Uttar Pradesh 33 64 1 2

TOTAL 684 1096 446 427

Provisional figures: Final Analysis results are awaited from Government Opium & Alkaloid Factory, Ghazipur.

Note: 70 degree consistency means opium which has 70% solids and 30% water. All opium procured from farmers is reckoned at 70 degree consistency.

- (b) Total quantum of opium out of this required for pharmaceutical preparation

(at 90 degree consistency) is as under:

Year	Opium for manufacture of alkaloids by GOAWs (in MT)	Opium sold to Indian Pharmaceutical industries as medicinal opium (in MT)
2002-03	134.293	5.433
2003-04	102.687	4.993
2004-05	140.445	4.801

Note: 90 degree consistency means opium containing 90% solids and 10% moisture.

(c) The total quantum of opium exported during the last 4 years is as under

Year Quantum of opium exported (in MT)
(at 90 degree consistency)

	Raw Indian Opium	Medicinal opium	Total
2002-03	490.030	1.925	491.955
2003-04	478.790	2.146	480.936
2004-05	364.361	1.690	366.051
2005-06	501.655	2.840	504.495

Note: 90 degree consistency means opium containing 90% solids and 10% moisture.

(d) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received, from time to time, regarding the problems of the opium cultivators. The main problems highlighted in the representation pertain to cancellation of licence, fixation of the Minimum Qualifying Yield criteria for grant of licence, testing of opium for determination of grade, compensation on account of damage to the opium crop, uprooting of the opium crop under Departmental supervision, renewal of licence in case of damage to the poppy crop due to natural calamity, expansion of opium cultivation area by issue of new licence, increase in the procurement price of opium, etc.

(e) Over the years several measures have been taken to solve the problems of opium cultivators. All representations relating to the problems of cultivators are attended to and remedial action taken to resolve the same. The Opium Licensing Order, which lays down the conditions of licence, for any crop year is finalized after considering the problems faced by the opium cultivators in the preceding crop year. Efforts are made to promptly attend to the supervision of uprooting of the unlicensed opium crop in all cases where application for uprooting of such crop is received. In other cases also, action is initiated to conduct survey of the concerned areas to ascertain the extent of damage to the poppy crop, if any, due to natural calamity, etc. Periodic meetings of the Grievance /Advisory Committees are held at the Unit Headquarters to redress the grievances of cultivators and suggestions received are examined for appropriate action.