

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3221
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013
PRODUCTION OF OPIUM
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) The time since when cultivation and production of opium is permitted along with details of poppy cultivation and production of opium during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the quantum of opium imported for manufacturing of drugs/medicines during the last three years;
- (c) whether detailed composition of chemicals for production of opium has been specified by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of requests for permission to cultivate poppy and also to produce opium received and action taken on each request by the Union Government thereon during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI J. D. SEELAM)

(a) The cultivation and production of opium has been permitted in India since pre-independence period. The Opium Act of 1857, which consolidated the earlier law related to opium cultivation in the country, covered aspects of legal cultivation and production of opium. The details of poppy cultivation and production of opium during each of the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Year	Number of cultivators licensed	Area licenced in hectares	Production of Opium in MT #
2009-10	60787	23425	761
2010-11	53775	24541	1045
2011-12	48863	23591	794
2012-13	46821	5859	371

at 70 degree consistency

(b) NIL

(c) Yes. The General Condition for grant of licenses for cultivation of opium specify that cultivators who tender inferior opium and opium with consistency lower than 55 degree are not eligible for license in the next year. As per the forewarning clause of the general conditions notified for the crop year 2012-13, the opium tendered by the cultivators is declared as inferior by the Govt. Opium & Alkaloid Works, Neemuch or Ghazipur on any of the following three grounds:-

- (i) If the morphine strength of opium is less than 9% on dry basis,
- (ii) If the opium has ash content of over 4.5%,
- (iii) If there is any amount of starch, sugar, gum, tannin, milk powder, etc. present in the opium.

(d) The licences to cultivate poppy and produce opium are issued to cultivators according to the general conditions of licences issued by the Government of India annually, in notified tracts only. The details of licenses issued to cultivators in last three years and the current year are given in reply to part (a) above.