

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3750
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
CULTIVATION OF OPIUM
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the General Licencing condition relating to production of opium has been finalized;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the cancelled licenses for opium production have been renewed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (e) the estimated increase in the production of opium under the new opium policies;
- (f) whether the Government have made any provisions regarding the sale of opium to illegal traders or smugglers by farmers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The General Licencing conditions have been notified on 13.10.2009 & 16.10.2009 increasing the maximum area that can be licenced per farmer, fixing a lower minimum qualifying yield (MQY) (53 kg/ha in Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and 46 kg/ha in Uttar Pradesh) than in the previous year (56 kg/ha in Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and 49 kg/ha in Uttar Pradesh) and enabling issue of licences to farmers who were denied licences since 2003-04 as per the following criteria:

(i) Cultivators who cultivated opium poppy during 2003-04 or during any subsequent year and had tendered opium as per the MQY but who were denied licences during the following year due to tendering opium whose consistence was found less than 55 degrees by the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works (GOAWs).

(ii) Cultivators who cultivated opium poppy during 2003-04 or during any subsequent year and had tendered opium as per the MQY but who were denied licences during the following year due to tendering opium which was found to be adulterated and classified as 'inferior' by the GOAWs.

(iii) Cultivators who were issued licences to cultivate opium poppy for crop year 2004-05 or any subseuent crop year but who were denied licences during the following year for uprooting opium poppy crop continuously for two or more years.

(iv) Cultivators who had cultivated opium poppy during 2003-04 or any subsequent year but who were denied licences during the following year for failing to meet the MQY but who had tendered at least 53 kg/ha in the States of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and 46 kg/ha in the State of Uttar Pradesh provided they were otherwise eligible.

(c) Licences for cultivation of opium poppy are issued for one crop year. They are not cancelled or renewed next year. If the farmer fulfils the eligibility criteria next year, he is issued a licence for that year.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The production of opium during the 2008-09 was 509 MT (at 70 degree consistence) which is expected to increase to 1261 MT during 2009-10.

(f) & (g) As per Rule 14 of the NDPS Rules, 1985 all the opium produced by the farmer has to be delivered to the District Opium Officer. Any farmer who embezzles opium is liable for punishment under Section 19 of the NDPS Act.