

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3767
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
OPIUM PRODUCTION
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to increase the growing areas of opium as per the new general licensing conditions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government is considering to set up a private public partnership to process the opium crop; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?.

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Government has decided to increase the opium production in the country by doubling the area licenced for cultivation of opium poppy. In the General Licensing Conditions for the crop year 2009-10, a lower minimum qualifying yield (MQY) of 53 kg/ha in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 46 kg/ha in Uttar Pradesh has been fixed. Further, provisions have been made to enable issue of licences to the following categories of farmers who were denied licences since 2003-04

(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 subsequent 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) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.