

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
LOK SABHA**

UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 3641

**TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021/
AGRAHAYANA 29, 1943 (SAKA)**

“OPIUM FARMING”

3641. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :-

- (a) the details of acreage for opium farming in the country and the extent to which the acreage has been increased or decreased during the last ten year, State-wise;
- (b) Whether the Government proposes to remove morphine rule and give it on lease on an average basis demand made by opium producing farmers in other States including Rajasthan;
- (c) If so, the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of opium production along with the opium product codeine phosphate imported from abroad during the last five years?

ANSWER:-

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

- (a) The opium cultivation in the country is carried out as per United Nations conventions on drug matters and NDPS Act 1985 for the purpose of medical use of opium and alkaloids present in it. Earlier opium gum produced by farmers was used for extraction of alkaloids for domestic use as well as for export to various countries. However, now importing countries are fulfilling their medical requirement through extracting of alkaloids from Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) instead of opium gum. Therefore, at present opium is produced in our country for extraction of alkaloids for domestic use only, which has led to less requirement of opium gum. Since opium gum can be produced as per requirement only therefore area under cultivation varies every year. The State-wise details of area (in hectare) for opium farming in the country during the last ten years is at Annexure I.

(b) & (c) :- Opium Cultivation as per international convention and NDPS Act 1985 is carried out to obtain alkaloids particularly Morphine, for medical purpose. Accordingly criteria of issuing license for cultivation of opium has been changed to Morphine content present in the Opium tendered by the farmer. The amount of Morphine is scientifically measured through machines and having minimal human interference. It also takes care of both quality and quantity issue of opium tendered by farmer. On the contrary, an average basis criterion which was used earlier, measures opium in terms of its weight only as minimum qualifying yield (MQY) for licensing. However, it requires more human interference and was comparatively less scientific. Since the present method is more scientific, has led to improvement in quality of opium tendered and has also led to reduction in number of farmers disqualified for not meeting the criteria of minimum qualifying yield, Government intends to continue with the present system.

(d) The details are at Annexure II.

ANNEXURE I

Sl. No.	Crop year	Name of State	Area Harvested (in hectare)
1	2012-13	Madhya Pradesh	3084
		Rajasthan	2529
		Uttar Pradesh	6
		Total	5619
2	2013-14	Madhya Pradesh	2825
		Rajasthan	2503
		Uttar Pradesh	1
		Total	5329
3	2014-15	Madhya Pradesh	2576
		Rajasthan	2846
		Uttar Pradesh	1
		Total	5423
4	2015-16	Madhya Pradesh	76
		Rajasthan	477
		Uttar Pradesh	4
		Total	557
5	2016-17	Madhya Pradesh	4511
		Rajasthan	4171
		Uttar Pradesh	39
		Total	8712
6	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh	2600
		Rajasthan	2088
		Uttar Pradesh	23
		Total	4711
7	2018-19	Madhya Pradesh	3065
		Rajasthan	2925
		Uttar Pradesh	118
		Total	6107
8	2019-20	Madhya Pradesh	2242
		Rajasthan	2326
		Uttar Pradesh	232
		Total	4799
9	2020-21	Madhya Pradesh	2495
		Rajasthan	2730
		Uttar Pradesh	181
		Total	5406
10	2021-22 (Estimated)	Madhya Pradesh	2850
		Rajasthan	3142
		Uttar Pradesh	201
		Total	6193

ANNEXURE II

1. The details of opium production during the last five crop years are as under:-

Year	Quantity of opium produced (at 70 consistence) (in Tons)
2016-17	560
2017-18	280
2018-19	405
2019-20	287
2020-21	315 (Provisional)

2. The details of codeine phosphate imported from abroad during the last five years are as under:-

Year	Quantity of Codeine Phosphate imported by Government Opium factories (in Kg.)
2016-17	NIL
2017-18	15000
2018-19	12500
2019-20	20000
2020-21	11000
