

Drought Prone Districts in Bundelkhand Region

2807. KUMARI UMABHARATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drought affected districts in Bundelkhand region;

(b) the names of districts out of them which have been declared as drought prone districts;

(c) the details of the facilities provided to these districts;

(d) whether Government propose to declare the remaining districts also as drought prone; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (e). Bundelkhand region includes the districts of Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Hamirpur and Jalaun. 23 blocks in these districts have been declared drought prone and are covered under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP). Funds ranging from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 18.5 lakhs per year per block, depending on the size of the block, are allocated mainly for taking up schemes of land development, conservation and harvesting of water resources and afforestation, pasture and fodder development.

Government have set up a National Committee to consider, among other aspects, proposals for inclusion of additional areas under the programme. There is, however, no proposal from the State Government for inclusion of any additional blocks of these districts under the DPAP.

[English]

Research on Test Tube Calf

2808. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some research work on test tube calf is going on in the country;

(b) if so, the places where such research work is being carried;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue out of this research;

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to further encourage such researches?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The researches have been taken up mainly at

i) National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal.

ii) Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar and

iii) Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, Mathura.

(c) This will help in salvation of superior buffalo germ plasm lost through slaughter of high producing buffaloes in metropolitan cities as well as in livestock genetic resource conservation and management.

(d) A USAID project on Embryo Transfer Technology and UNDP and DBT supported projects on the subject are in opera-