

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7190
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
ENCOURAGEMENT OF FARMING OF OPIUM
Yadav Shri Mitrasen

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a): whether high quality opium is grown in Barabanki district and industries of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b): whether the Union Government are considering any scheme to encourage the farming of opium so that foreign currency can be earned;
- (c): if so, the details thereof; and
- (d): if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a): The quality of opium poppy tendered by the opium cultivators of Barabanki District of Uttar Pradesh in crop year 2003-04 is 11.11% in terms of morphine content as against the average morphine content of 11.24% for the Uttar Pradesh unit for the said crop year.
- (b), (c) & (d): While continuous efforts are made to facilitate opium poppy cultivation by the licensed opium cultivators, in view of the limited requirement of opium in the domestic and export markets, there is no proposal at present to extend the area of licensed opium cultivation.