

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6361
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
WOOL PRODUCTS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are about 50.80 million sheep and 115 million goats in the country, the estimated wool production was about 460 lakh Kg. during 2002-03;
- (b) whether there is tremendous scope for employment generation in this sector;
- (c) if so, the action being taken thereon;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to set up a technology mission to improve productivity of wool per sheep and work out methodology for the diversification of products by mixing Angora and Pashmina wool; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

- (a): As per the 17th Livestock Census (2003) results, sheep and goat population in the country are 61.47 million and 124.36 million respectively. Wool production in 2002-03 is estimated at 505 lakh kg.
- (b): Scope of employment generation through sheep and goat, particularly for the disadvantaged groups of people, has been recognized at various quarters.
- (c): National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Consultancy NABCONS, a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has been assigned the task of formulating a Detailed Project Report for the Development of Small Ruminants.
- (d) and (e): A proposal for a Technology Mission for Wool originated from the recommendation of Working Group on textiles and jute industries constituted by the Planning Commission. Ministry of Textiles, in consultation with Planning Commission, decided to implement an Integrated Wool Improvement Programme focusing on improvement of wool fibre as well as marketing of wool and woollen products. The Integrated Wool Improvement Programme has been approved with a 10th Plan allocation of Rs.35.00 crore for implementation since 2003-04 by the Ministry of Textiles and Central Wool Development Board in collaboration with State Animal Husbandry Departments, State Wool Boards/Federations and other agencies.