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Title: Need to review the opium policy and take measures for the welfare of opium farmers.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR): Looking at the revenue that is generated from the exports of opium in India there is a need to have a holistic opium policy. This policy should be in sync with the present condition of opium planters and conducive to improve their standard of living. There is a need to have a uniform Minimum Qualifying yield across all the States where opium cultivation is licit. The notification no. 1/2011- Narcotics Control 1 dated 20th September, 2011 of Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue states that opium cultivation will not be allowed if the number of eligible farmers is five or less than five needs to be reconsidered since there are farmers whose livelihood depends on opium alone. Those farmers who are given an option to shift to a neighbouring village should be provided with some compensation and a pucca house since they have to start their life from scratch. The farmers who were affected due to hailstorm in 2006-07 should get their respective opium pattas back. Also, Government must review the NDPS Act. I hope the Union Government will take sympathetic and considerate view in this regard.