

at R. 3125 per quintal for 1998 season on 10th June, 1998. The MSPs for 1998 season mark a substantial increase of Rs. 200 per quintal each for Milling copra and Ball Copera over their respective MSPs last year. This also marks an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal in the MSP of Milling copra and Rs. 25 per quintal for Ball copra over the MSPs recommended by the CACP for 1998 season.

The Government of India has not received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to enhance MSP declared on 10th June, 1998. The Government has directed the National Agricultural Coop. Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) to start procurement under MSP. Upto 30th June, 1998 the NAFED has procured 199 tonnes of Milling copra in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The procurement of Ball copra is not necessitated as its market prices are ruling above the MSP.

[*Translation*]

#### Immunisation of Cattle

3048. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide some grant to the State Governments to immunise cattle against the 'Muhkhuri' disease;

(b) if so, the extent of grant provided by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) the vaccination cost collected from the animal breeders to immunise the animals against the 'Mukhuri' disease per animal;

(d) whether many poor farmers find it difficult to pay the price of the injection despite the grant being given by the Centre and the State Government; and

(e) if so, whether the Government would contemplate to pay the full price of the injection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 57.27 lakhs was provided to the State during 1997-98. No releases were made to the State During 1996-97.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[*English*]

#### Indian Council For Veterinary Research

3049. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 100 MPs have recommended for setting up of Indian Council for Veterinary Research (ICVR) by bifurcating Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up ICVR and National Cattle Research Institute;

(c) whether productivity of indigenous breeds is much less in comparison to USA; and

(d) if so, the comparative figures thereof and the steps being taken to improve the indigenous breeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is examining the proposal for setting up of ICVR. There is no proposal to set up National Cattle Research Institute.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The estimated average annual production from indigenous cattle during 1992-93 was about 672 kg, whereas the figure for USA during the same period was 6999 kg.

The important measures undertaken to improve the indigenous breeds are as follows;

(i) Establishment of Central Cattle Breeding Farms and implementation of Central Herd Registration Scheme.

(ii) Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Extension of Frozen Semen Technology, Progeny Testing Programme and the National Bull Production Programme

(iii) Implementation of Research Programmes at National Dairy Research Institute, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Project Directorate on Cattle and other institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.