

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:258

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001

ORANGE CROP

ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether orange crop has become more of a bane than boom for farmers;
- (b) whether availability of orange in the country particularly Maharashtra has come down by 66% this year;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether orange farmers are considering to wind up the orange cultivation due to water crunch and pest menace; and
- (e) if so, the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 258 DUE FOR REPLY ON 14.03.2001.

(a): No, Sir.

(b)&(c): No, Sir. However, there has been some reduction in the production of oranges particularly in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra during the current year. This is mainly due to climatic variations coupled with attack of diseases and lowering of water table.

(d): No, Sir. However, there has been a declining trend in the area expansion programme for orange crop in Maharashtra.

(e): The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on MacroManagement in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States` Effortsthrough Work Plans under which assistance is being provided for various activities like establishment of nurseries, rejuvenation of old orchards, establishment of Plant Health Clinics, Disease Forecasting Units and Tissue/Leaf Analysis laboratories. Besides, assistance is also being provided for drip irrigation under the Scheme. The Government of Maharashtra is also providing assistance to the farmers for plant protection measures, drip irrigation and supply of quality planting material under their Employment Guarantee Scheme linked Horticulture programmes.