

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1190
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
TRAINING FOR SMALL FARMERS
N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to train the entrepreneurs and small farmers to produce white button mushrooms under the various climatical conditions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this direction; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Government of India implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation till October 2000. The scheme provided for supply of quality spawn, pasteurized compost and handling facilities. One of the important components of the scheme was training of farmers and entrepreneurs in mushroom cultivation including white button mushrooms under various Agro-climatic conditions of the Country. Assistance of Rs.1500.00 per trainee was provided under the scheme. The scheme has now been subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Macro Management in Agriculture –Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plans`. The scheme provides greater flexibility to States in prioritizing their needs. The States can pursue mushroom cultivation including button mushroom under this scheme.

The Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored scheme on `Technology Mission for Integrated Development Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim`. Establishment of integrated mushroom unit & development of mushroom is part of this scheme wherein training is also provided to farmers and entrepreneurs in latest techniques of mushroom cultivation.

Besides National Research Centre for Mushroom (Indian Council of Agriculture Research), at Solan, (Himachal Pradesh) is regularly organizing training programmes for entrepreneurs and small farmers from different States. Under these programmes training on cultivation technology of white button mushroom under various climatic conditions is imparted.