

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4505
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
CULTIVATION OF NON-CEREAL ITEMS OF FOOD
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have framed a policy to encourage cultivation of non-cereal items of food; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The National Policy on Agriculture, among other things seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian Agriculture. A number of recommendations in the National Agriculture Policy encourage cultivation of non-cereal items of food including horticulture crops which are as follows:

- (i) Proper management of water resources for the optimum use of irrigation potential through in situ Moisture Management Techniques.
- (ii) Major thrust on rainfed and irrigated horticulture including beekeeping, production and distribution of disease planting material, precision farming etc.
- (iii) Reduction of post-harvest losses, increased value addition and creation off-farm employment in rural areas.

Besides the above, Vision 2020, Working Group Report on Horticulture of Planning Commission have recommended the following:

- ? The horticulture sector should have a high growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent in order to achieve an overall growth rate of 4 percent in the agriculture sector.
- ? With the increasing aspirations of the farmers for gaining more returns per unit of area, the horticulture should provide means of diversification for traditional agriculture.
- ? The per capita availability of horticulture produce will have to be increased and the programmes for horticulture development should strive to reach production level of 265.5 million tones by the end of Tenth Plan.

The above aspects have been considered while planning the schemes for implementation in horticulture sector during the Tenth Plan.