

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7911
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
SAFFRON CULTIVATION
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Globe's costliest spice saffron is facing a rough very rough weather in Kashmir;
- (b) whether saffron yield has dwindled to merely 10,000 kgs. when about 1,50,000 person are associated with its cultivation and in some areas the production even dropped by 60 per cent; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

- (a) The Saffron crop in Kashmir Division has suffered heavy loss due to occurrence of unprecedented drought during the year 1999-2000.
- (b) The average yield of Saffron has increased from 2.62 kg. Per ha. during 1996 to 3.03 kg per ha. in 1998. The total production of Saffron in the region was 12,780 kg. during 1998. The Kishtwar plateau of Jammu Division has been affected to the extent of 5 to 10 per cent due to corn rot disease.
- (c) Govt. of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices which includes saffron also. The programmes implemented during the first 3 years of the 9th Plan for increasing production and productivity of Saffron in Jammu & Kashmir are:
 - (i) Establishment of Seed Multiplication plots and
 - (ii) Demonstration plots. During the remaining period of the 9th Plan, the saffron development programmes proposed to be implemented are:
 - (i) Setting up of corn production centres for augmenting supply of quality seed material and
 - (ii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots to propagate better farming practices and to encourage area expansion. The 9th Plan outlay earmarked for saffron development in Jammu & Kashmir is Rs.10.50 lakhs.