

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4993
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
POTATO RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Potato Research Institute has undertaken any research project to increase the production of potato;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;
- (c) So details of the progress achieved under these projects so far; and
- (d) the total per acre production of potato during the last three years?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research to increase the potato production in the country is being carried out at Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla under the following projects:

1. Potato Genetic Resources and their utilization.
2. Breeding improved cultivars including True Potato Seed (TPS) population for various climatic zones of the country.
3. Development of sustainable potato based cropping system in different agro-climatic regions.
4. Integrated plant nutrient system in potato based cropping system.
5. Low cost input technology for potato production.
6. Design and Development of Improved Farm Machinery.
7. Control of major diseases and pests of potato.
8. Potato breeder seed production for entire country.

(c)

(i) 2400 accessions of potato and its wild species have been collected, maintained and are being utilized for potato improvement.

(ii) 35 high yielding potato varieties of different cropping durations and possessing resistance to major diseases, like late blight, wart, cyst nematodes and tolerant to viruses have been developed and released.

(iii) A major breakthrough in potato seed production was achieved through standardization of Seed Production Technology. With the use of this technology about 26 thousand quintals of breeder's seed is being produced annually.

(iv) Based on several years of multi-location trials agro-climatic zone-wise package of practices for seed and ware potato production were developed which has contributed to increase potato production and productivity in the country.

(v) Profitable potato based cropping systems for different agro-climatic zones have been identified.

(vi) Various improved implements for mechanization of potato cultivation have been developed.

(vii) Late blight forecasting system has been developed to warn the farmers of the hills and north-western plains 7-10 days in advance for taking plant protection measures.

(viii) Protocols for micropropagation of Indian potato cultivars were standardized.

(ix) An innovative research finding of the Institute is the development of technique for raising commercial crop of potato using botanical seed of potato or true potato seed (TPS).

(d) The per acre production of potato during 1996-97; 1997-98 and 1998-99 was 76.7, 58.4 and 70.3 quintals respectively.