

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:558

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000

PRODUCTION OF ONION

ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;BASANGOUDA PATIL;RAMSHETH THAKUR;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been a bumper crop of onions in the country this year;
- (b) if so, whether the onions growers are facing financial difficulties due to non- announcement of support price to onion;
- (c) whether due to delay in taking decision about export of onions, lakhs of tonnes of onions have rotted, causing a great losses to the farmers; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government to overcome the onion-crisis and safeguard the interest of the farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

- (a): The production of onion during 1999-2000 is expected to be 47.50 lakh tonnes as against 54.67 lakh tonnes produced during 1998-99.
- (b): Onion is not covered under Minimum Support Price scheme and as such announcement of support prices for this crop does not arise. However, onion is covered under Market Intervention Scheme.
- (c)&(d): As against 2.16 lakh tonnes of onion exported during 1998-99, a quota of 3.00 lakh tonnes of onion was allocated for export upto July, 2000, out of which 2.55 lakh tonnes of onions have already been exported. To help stabilize the prices of onion, market intervention was also done by the State Government of Maharashtra. The Government of India continuously monitor the prospects of the crop at various stages of its production and takes required corrective steps to protect the interest of the farmers.