

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2861

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007

BAMBOO FORESTS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has the largest bamboo forests in the world which are still untapped;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to harness these bamboo forests for remunerative returns and to promote research and development to improve the quality of the produce;
- (c) whether the commercial exploitation of the said bamboo forests has the potential to generate a good number of employment in bamboo and related sectors; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for proper tapping of the said employment potential?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir, India has the largest bamboo forests in the world. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Bamboo Mission during 2006-07 to promote bamboo sector in the country. The Mission has three main components of research, plantation and handicraft development and marketing. The programme aims to achieve the following objectives:

- ? To promote the growth of the bamboo sector through as an area based regionally differentiated strategy;
- ? To increase the coverage of area under bamboo in potential areas, with improved varieties to enhance yields;
- ? To promote marketing of bamboo and bamboo based handicrafts;
- ? To establish convergence and synergy among stake-holders for the development of bamboo;
- ? To promote, develop and disseminate technologies through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge.
- ? To generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youths.

The Mission is envisaged to improve the existing bamboo forests as well as to enhance productivity of bamboo to the average level of 18 tons per hectare to make it remunerative through the efforts of research and improved practices.

The Mission is also envisaged to generate about 50.4 million man days of work by Bamboo Plantation activities in 1.76 hectares over a period of 5 years. In the nursery sector, the total estimated employment to be generated every year will be around 9.7 lakh man days.