

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1315
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
PLANTATION OF PALM TREES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote plantation of palm trees keeping in view the expenditure being incurred on import of edible oils;
- (b) if so, whether advance quality seeds and seedlings are being developed to suit the Indian climatic conditions and also there is any proposal to promote plantation of palm trees on suitable land on sea shores; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken/ to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): In order to augment the domestic availability of edible oils, Government of India is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) for increasing area under oil palm cultivation in 10 States which have potential to grow oil palm in the country.

(b)&(c): National Research Centre for Oil Palm (NRC-OP) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed high yielding hybrids which are suitable for oil palm growing areas. However, the cultivation of oil palm is not recommended for sandy and saline soils of sea shores. The NRC-OP also distributes the progenies of suitable planting material.

Beside this, the Government of India also provides assistance to the States for planting material, cultivation inputs, drip irrigation system, diesel pump set, training, demonstration etc under ISOPOM.