

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2434
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Horticulture sector is badly affected due to the lack of any incentive or support for marketing or value addition of agriculture products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The horticulture sector, with a production of 202.70 million tonnes is having an average annual growth rate of 6.70%. Recognizing the potential for horticulture development, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely 'National Horticulture Mission' and 'Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand', besides Schemes on

- (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through production and post harvest management and
- (ii) capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages/storage of horticultural produce of National Horticulture Board. Under the above mentioned schemes, assistance is being provided to State Governments and entrepreneurs for development of infrastructure for marketing and post harvest management including value addition of horticulture produce.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of State Governments/Union Territories for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities. MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when there is glut in the market and the prices tend to fall below economic levels/cost of production. Procurement is made by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and State designated agencies.

In addition, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce has established Agri Export Zones in various parts of the country for promotion of export of horticulture produce.