

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1724

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

PROBLEMS AFFECTING PEPPER PLANTATIONS

Pakirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain problems have affected pepper plantation, productivity and market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to protect the interest of farmers, State-wise, especially in Karnataka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

a)to (c): Yes, Madam. The predominance of old and senile pepper plants,insufficient supply of elite planting materials, pest and diseases, depletion of soil fertility, high dependence on weather and severe fluctuation in climatic condition in the growing area, lack of technology for mechanical farming, insufficient promotional activities to address various issues etc. are the reasons for the stagnation in production and productivity in pepper. Considering the necessity of reviving the pepper industry and development of pepper in the country with focus on replantation and rejuvenation of old, senile and disease affected plantations, two schemes have been approved by the Government for implementation during XI Plan and XII Plan. One of the schemes is at a project cost of Rs.230.58 crores with financial assistance from National Horticulture Mission at Rs.120.00 crores for Idukki district of Kerala and another scheme is of an outlay of Rs.100.81 crores with Central Government assistance of Rs.53.28 crores in Wayanad district of Kerala and North East region. These schemes do not cover the pepper growers of Karnataka.