

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:703
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
ONION PRODUCTION
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of onions produced during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has withdrawn onion from the list of essential commodities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of farmers who have received assistance/loan for cultivation of Onion during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a): A statement showing the quantum of onions produced during the last three years and the current year. State-wise and year-wise is placed at Annexure 'A'.
- (b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Onion has been withdrawn from the list of essential commodities. The decision to remove Onion from the list of essential commodities was taken as part of the policy evolved by the Committee comprising of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers constituted during the conference of Chief Ministers on "WTO and Agriculture" held on 21st May, 2001.
- (d): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely National Horticulture Mission (NHM) under which National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) provides assistance to the farmers under Technology Dissemination through Demonstration and Vegetable Seed Production Programmes. The number of farmers to whom assistance was provided by NHRDF under NHM programmes is given at Annexure-B.