

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1822
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the National Horticulture Mission;
- (b) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the functioning of the mission;
- (c) whether the mission is providing assistance for cultivation of vegetables; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched during X Plan from 2005-06 for the holistic development of horticulture sector by adopting an area based regionally differentiated strategies and cluster approach for development of horticultural crops. The scheme is continued during XI Five Year Plan and being implemented in 18 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs) of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshdweep and Puducherry. Remaining 11 States are covered under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim and Himalayan States.

Under the Mission, various horticultural crops such as fruits, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, plantation crops of Cashew and Cocoa are included for area expansion based on the natural potential of the area.

During 2005-06 to 2008-09, an amount of Rs.3503.11 crore was released for implementation of the scheme. During 2009-10, an amount of Rs.725.25 crore has been released for implementation of the Scheme till date.

(b): To make horticulture activity more popular and attractive among the farmers and growers, the cost norms & pattern of assistance for most of the components under the Mission has been enhanced recently. It is envisaged that increased pattern of assistance will motivate farmers for adopting improved technologies and cultivars, encourage private sector participation in building infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing. Besides, some new components like mushroom production, high density plantation, certification of good agricultural practices, horticulture mechanization, ripening chambers, pre-cooling units, retail markets have also been included in the Mission.

(c) & (d): Under the Mission, assistance is not being provided for cultivation of vegetables under open condition. However, assistance is being provided for vegetable cultivation under protected conditions through green houses, shade net houses and plastic tunnels. Besides, assistance is also provided for vegetable seed production, INM/IPM and organic farming.