

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6148
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES CO- OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
Mithlesh Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fruits and vegetables co-operatives set up/proposed to be set up in the country;
- (b) the details of employment generated from such co-operatives;
- (c) whether the interests of small farmers are being protected from the emerging urban retail outlets by such co-operatives and network of self-help groups;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the likely impact of such linkages?

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) to (e): Promotion of co-operatives is guided by the provisions of the Co- operative Societies Act of the respective States. Information on co-operatives registered in the States is not maintained centrally. Central Registrar has not registered any multi state fruit and vegetable co-operative in the country. However, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has provided assistance under its schemes to 55 fruit and vegetable units in 17 States under cooperative sector. These units have created direct employment for 900 and indirect employment for 2500 persons. Such linkages have helped protect the interests of farmers by reducing wastages and preventing distress sale of produce.

Further, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE) for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring horizontal and vertical linkages with the active participation of all the stake-holders. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to development of fruits and vegetables for which assistance can also be availed by co-operatives.