

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2558
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
STUDY BY ICAR
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the long term study conducted by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research the apple belt of Himachal Pradesh is shifting upwards and onion crops in Maharashtra failed due to higher temperature and high rainfall; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation and assist the affected farmers/growers?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. No long term studies have been conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research regarding upward shifting of apple belt of Himachal Pradesh and failure of onion crop in Maharashtra. However, there is an increase in area in the last 3 years (2006-2008) in apple from 88.6 thousand hectare to 94.5 thousand hectare in Himachal Pradesh. Similarly production has also increased from 5.4 to 5.92 lakh tones during the same period.

No report has been received regarding failure of onion crop in Maharashtra due to high temperature and high rainfall.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has now provided focused attention for the development of cultivars and technologies which can tolerate high temperature.