

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1913  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010  
ORGANIC SPICES  
Ghatowar Shri Paban Singh

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

- (a) whether the Spices Board of India has any plan to encourage production of organic pepper, herbal spices and ginger cultivation in the North Eastern Region (NER);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of schemes under implementation by the Spice Board alongwith the funds allocated under the current Five Year Plan for the North Eastern (NE) States;
- (d) the details of number of branches of the Board in the NER;
- (e) whether the Board undertakes training programmes for farmers/officials/NGOs in the NE;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) During the XI Plan Spices Board is implementing various programmes including North East Region(NER) under Plan Schemes viz. Replantation and Rejuvenation of Cardamom(Rs.122.23 crores) and Pepper(Rs.53.28 crores) plantations, Export Oriented Production and Post Harvest Improvement of Spices(Rs.82.94 crores) and Export Development and Promotion of Spices(Rs.192.691 crores). The Spices Board under Export Oriented Production and Post Harvest Improvement of Spices is providing financial assistance by way of subsidies for organic cultivation of pepper, Lakadong Turmeric and ginger. During the first 3 years of the current plan period Spices Board have covered an area of 374 hectares under organic cultivation of pepper in the states of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur paying a subsidy @ Rs.15,000 per hectare amounting to Rs.69.40 lakhs. Towards promoting organic production of ginger, farmers are given subsidy @Rs.12500 per hectare and an area of 2252 hectares were covered with a subsidy of Rs. 277.20 lakhs. Approximately 10% of the budget allocation of the Spices Board is spent on its various activities in NER.

(d) to (f) To implement various plan activities in NER Spices Board have three Regional Offices. 2 Regional Offices are at Guwahati, one each for Marketing and Development and 1 at Gangtok. The Board have 7 Zonal Offices at Agartala (Tripura), Aizwal (Mizoram), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Jorethang, Gangtok, Mgangan and Tadong (Sikkim). The Board also have 3 Field Offices at Churachandpur (Manipur), Dimapur (Nagaland) and Shilong (Meghalaya). 1 Research Office at Tadong (Sikkim) is also in operation. Spices Board provides training to farmers and planting material and procurement of equipments for community use for quality production of spices. The Board arranges training programmes for the officers of the States, Horticulture /Agriculture Departments and selected growers of NER on the recent advances in spices cultivation, harvest and post harvest operation in elite plantation research station like IICR, ICRI, KAU, NGOs, Spices Processing Units of South India and Quality Evaluation Laboratory of Spices Board. During the first three years of XI Plan period 9 officers and 198 farmers were trained under the programme at an expenditure of Rs.27.50 lakhs.