

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1147  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011  
PROPOSAL FROM MAHARASHTRA  
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth has forwarded a proposal seeking Rs. 14 crore as an assistance to increase the production of fruits in Vidharbha regions of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the orange producing farmers of Vidharbha are unable to produce oranges due the absence of pest free graft of orange plantation and lack of latest equipments in the lone existing food processing center there; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) & (b): No proposal has been received from Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola seeking Rs.14 crore as an assistance to increase the production of fruits in Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. Maharashtra is the leading producer of oranges and the districts of Akola, Nagpur, Amravati and Wardha of Vidarbha region are the major orange growing belts.

In order to address the issue of productivity decline in citrus crop, particularly in the Vidharbha region, under National Horticulture Mission(NHM), a Technology Mission on Citrus (TMC) was launched during 2006-07. The National Research Centre (NRC) for Citrus, Nagpur is the nodal agency for implementation of TMC. The main components of TMC are production of disease free planting material of citrus, technology demonstration and capacity building of citrus growers, extension personal and other stakeholders. The TMC has also been extended to Marathwada region of Maharashtra during 2008-09 and Chhindwara regions of Madhya Pradesh during 2010-11. An amount of Rs. 10.76 crore has been provided for this purpose to NRCC, Nagpur during 2006-07 to 2010-11. Under the TMC, up to 2010-11, total 8.04 lakh disease free seedlings of citrus have been produced and distributed to farmers.