

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1463
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF POTATO CROP
Devi Aswamedh;Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount sanctioned for Bihar under the Centrally sponsored programme for promotion and protection of potato crops in the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the total number of farmers benefited under this scheme in the State;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a potato board; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country including Bihar for the holistic development of horticulture. Under NHM, assistance is not provided for cultivation of vegetables, including potato in open field conditions. However, assistance is provided for vegetable seed production including potato seed under the Public and Private sector.

During last three years, State Horticulture Mission, Bihar has sanctioned an amount of Rs.17.365 lakh for production of potato seed in 69.46 ha area under NHM. During the current year so far, no funds have been sanctioned for the purpose.

(b): During the period, 60 farmers have been benefited under potato seed production programme in the State.

(c) & (d): At present, there is no proposal to constitute a Potato Board.