

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4144
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
PROMOTION OF SONAMUKHI CROP
Baitha Shri Kameshwar ;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any national scheme to promote Sonamukhi crop and to facilitate the export and marketing of the said crop;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any coordination has been established between the agricultural Ministries of the Union and State Governments to monitor the said scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of farmers being benefited by the scheme during the last three years, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding nonpercolation of funds to the farmers under the said scheme; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address these complaints?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government has not formulated any specific scheme for promoting the export of Sonamukhi crop. However, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" since 2008-09. Under this Scheme, cultivation of identified medicinal plants is supported and farmers are given subsidy for the cultivation of these plants in cluster mode with backward and forward linkages. Sonamukhi (*Cassia angustifolia*) is one of the identified species for providing subsidy @ 20% of its cost of cultivation. The assistance under the scheme is provided for establishing nursery, subsidy for cultivation, post harvest management, processing and value addition including marketing infrastructure.

(c) & (d): Since, the scheme is being implemented by the NMPB, through Mission Directors identified in the State Department of Agriculture / Horticulture State Medicinal Plants Boards etc., Ministry of Agriculture is not involved in implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

(e): As per the information received from "Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Tamil Nadu" which is the implementing agency in Tamil Nadu State, the number of farmers benefited during last three years in the State for cultivation of Sonamukhi Crop are given as under:

S.No. YearNo. of farmers benefitted

1 2008-09 2140

2 2009-10 498

3 2010-11 1185

(f): No such reports have been received by the programme implementing Ministry.

(g): Does not arise.