

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1000

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

YEAR OF HORTICULTURE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has declared 2012 as the year of Horticulture;
- (b) if so, the special schemes and benefits likely to accrue to the farmers during this year;
- (c) whether the consumers are also likely to be benefited by this announcement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds likely to be released to each State/UT in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is celebrating 2012-13 to highlight the significant achievements of the horticulture sector and to give it a renewed thrust. Efforts will be made to create awareness among the masses and various stakeholders by organizing workshops / seminars conferences, Exhibitions, Kisan Melas etc.

During the Eleventh Plan, area under horticulture crops increased from 19.39 million ha in 2006-07 to 21.82 million ha in 2010-11. Similarly, production of horticulture crops increased from 191.8 million MT to 240.43 million MT during the corresponding period. This resulted in higher per capita availability of fruits and vegetables, besides substantial increase in its exports, which helped the country to earn foreign exchange to the tune of Rs.14,000 crore.

(c) & (d): Consumers will benefit from enhanced production, reduction of post harvest losses and improved marketing. Thus better produce will be available to consumers at affordable prices.

(e): During 2012-13, an amount of Rs 1850 crore have been allocated for implementation of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission on North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) schemes.