

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3034
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
ASSISTANCE TO POMEGRANATE FARMERS
Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to encourage pomegranate farmers under the National Horticulture Mission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said financial assistance is adequate to meet the minimum cost of production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, whether the Government has taken various steps to revise the financial assistance extended for pomegranate production; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government is providing financial assistance under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for taking up cultivation of horticultural crops including fruit crops like pomegranate, both under normal crop spacing as well as high density planting. The assistance under normal spacing is at the rate of 75% of cost of Rs.40,000 per ha in three installment whereas in the case of high density planting, the assistance is at the rate of 50% of cost of Rs.80,000 per ha, in three installments for a maximum area of four hectares per beneficiary.

(c) & (d): Financial assistance being provided under NHM is adequate to incentivize the farmers for meeting the cost of quality planting material and other inputs. The farmers are encouraged to avail other schemes of the Government such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) to meet the cost involved in earthwork.

(e) & (f): The Government has revised the cost norms recently during 2010-11 wherein the cost norms for cultivation of fruits was increased from Rs.30,000 per hectare to Rs.40,000 per hectare. Besides, assistance for taking up high density planting was also included during the same year.