

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3079
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
BETEL LEAF GROWERS
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of betel leaf growers in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the condition of these growers are deteriorating due to various problems mainly, non remunerative prices of the produce and increase in input costs;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is taking any steps to improve the Condition of these farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a): There are approximately 20 million people engaged in production, processing, transportation and marketing of betel leaves. Betel leaves are being cultivated in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal. However, no state-wise assessment has been made on the number of betel leaf growers.
- (b) to (e): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing the National Horticulture Mission for the holistic development of horticulture crops by adopting an area based regionally differentiated cluster approach. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities such as production of quality planting material, protected cultivation, integrated pest and nutrient management, post harvest management and establishment of marketing infrastructure, etc. Besides, betel leaf cultivation is being promoted under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).