

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:653

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

PRODUCTION OF SPICES

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the production of various spices during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise and spice-wise;
- (b) whether the area under cultivation and production of spices including pepper have registered a decline in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the schemes/ programmes undertaken to increase production alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to increase the area under spice cultivation and boost the production of spices during the XIIth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the notable achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research/Agricultural Universities in this regard during the last two years?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 653 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND MAY, 2012.

(a): Statement showing production of various spices in the country during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise and spice-wise are given at Annexure I & II.

(b) & (c): While the area under spices is more or less stable, the total production of spices in the country has increased over the last three years from 52.37 lakh MT during 2009-10 to 57.26 lakh MT during 2011-12. However, production of pepper has been fluctuating and has declined in 2011-12 compared to the previous year. Reasons for this, inter alia, include the following:-

# Substantial number of pepper gardens have turned senile.

# Widespread incidence of pests and diseases resulting in low productivity.

# Replacement of pepper area with other lucrative alternative crops like rubber.

(d): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., (i) Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in remaining States and Union Territories of the country for the holistic development of horticulture crops including spices. Under these Missions, assistance is provided for production of planting material, area expansion of spices crop, replanting / rejuvenation of senile plantation, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), technology dissemination, etc.

In addition, specific programmes have been initiated for pepper rejuvenation in Idukki and Wayanad districts of Kerala. For Idukki district, Rs. 120 crore has been sanctioned to Spices Board as subsidy under NHM over a period of five years for rejuvenation of 60,000 ha of old and senile pepper gardens. In Wayanad district, Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce has undertaken a programme for replanting/ rehabilitation of pepper.

(e): Indian Institute of Spices Research, National Research Centre for Seed Spices, and State Agricultural Universities have been involved in development of improved varieties of spices, development and standardization of production technologies including pests and disease management and transfer of technology for commercial adoption by farmers.