

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3817
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012
SATELLITE SURVEY SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a satellite survey system has been installed to retrieve the exact information regarding the production of onions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the system is likely to be beneficial for the consumer and market;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to adopt the said system for retrieving exact information regarding other agricultural produces in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Government of India under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has sanctioned a Project entitled 'Standardization of the technology for assessment of Onion Area using Remote Sensing and Field Survey Techniques' during 2011-12. The project is being implemented by National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Nashik in collaboration with Space Application Centre (SAC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad. The Project is aimed to achieve objective of estimating pre-harvest onion area of major onion growing regions in selected states using Remote Sensing (RS) technology; improving survey based method using RS based stratification input for farmer survey; integration of RS based input & ground survey method to improve accuracy of the final estimate; and establishment of technical expertise for operational use of the technique. The major onion growing regions in the four states covered under the present study are Gujarat (Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Junagadh and Amreli), Maharashtra (Nashik, Pune, Satara, Ahmednagar, Dhule), Madhya Pradesh (Indore, Dewas, Ujjain, Shahajapur, Khandwa) & Karnataka (Dharwad, Gadag, Bijapur, Chittradrurg).

(c): The system is to provide advance estimation of area and production of onions for formulating strategies and in adopting corrective measures, in the event of shortage or glut of onions, in order to stabilize its domestic prices.

(d) & (e): Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on 'Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations (FASAL)' since 2006. Under the scheme, remote sensing methodology for national level crop forecast has been developed for crops like rice, wheat, winter potato, jute, rapeseed, and mustard. Besides, the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre has been set up as an attached office under the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation during 2012-13 with a view to prepare in-season crop forecasts using state-of-the art techniques and methodologies for selected major crops.