

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3312
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
CASHEW PROCESSING UNITS
J Helen Davidson

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for process mechanization and automation of cashew processing units for quality upgradation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India has requested the Government to include cashew among the eligible items in the new status holders incentive crop schemes;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost declining cashew production in Tamil Nadu and Kerala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & b) Yes Madam, the Government has approved XII Five Year Plan Scheme of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India which has three components including Process Mechanization & Automation of Cashew Processing Units and Quality Upgradation and Food Safety Certifications. For the component Process Mechanization & Automation of Cashew Processing Units, an amount of Rs.21.40 crore have been approved while for the component Quality Upgradation and Food Safety Certifications amount of Rs.2.20 crore has been approved.

(c) There is no scheme named "Status holders incentive crop schemes".

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Various development programmes viz. New plantation development of cashew, replacing senile cashew plantations under state owned corporations and forest department with high yielding varieties, technology dissemination through demonstrations, publicity, seminars, workshops, field days, training programmes etc. are being implemented under the National Horticultural Mission for enhancing the cashew production in Tamilnadu & Kerala since 2005-06.

A special project, Sustainable Cashew production in Kerala has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture during the year 2008-09, at a total cost of Rs. 95.601 Crores of which Rs. 57.83 Crores is the central share. The project is under implementation through the Kerala State Agency for Expansion of Cashew Cultivation, agency constituted by the Government of Kerala.

A total area of 21399 Ha in Kerala and 3967 Ha in Tamilnadu has been brought under new planting of Cashew. Besides, a total area of 240.55 Ha in Kerala and 6948 Ha in Tamilnadu owned by corporations and forest departments were replanted with high yielding varieties under the above NHM programmes.

The cashew production has been increased from 67,000 MT to 71,000MT in Kerala and 56,000MT to 65,000 in Tamilnadu from 2005-06 to 2011-12.