

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6579
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
PRODUCTION OF FOOD ITEMS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind in comparison to other countries of the world in the production of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several States are also far behind in comparison to the average national productivity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to bring the average productivity of different States at par with the national average to achieve the productivity at world level?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Details of production of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables in India vis-à-vis other major producing countries in the World are given in Annexure-I. It may be observed that India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables after China and third largest producer of foodgrains after China and USA.

(c) & (d): In some States, productivity of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables is lower than the national average while in other States the productivity is higher than the national average. State-wise details of productivity of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables in the country are given in Annexure-II.

(e): To achieve higher productivity in agricultural crops including foodgrains, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable for different situations, including development of location-specific varieties and technologies as per agro-ecological zones and the varieties/hybrids suitable for non-traditional areas and seasons.

In order to increase production and productivity of horticultural crops including fruits and vegetables, the Government 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 for holistic development of horticulture including production of fruits & vegetables in a mission mode approach, covering entire spectrum of horticulture right from production to consumption through backward and forward linkages. Financial assistance is provided for various activities such as production of quality planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation/replanting of old and senile orchards, creation of water resources, protected cultivation, organic farming, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/ Integrated Pest Management (IPM), technology demonstration, human resource development, exposure visit of farmers, Post Harvest Management (PHM) and establishment of marketing infrastructure. Besides, Government launched a new programme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) during 2011-12 under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In this scheme, assistance is provided for taking up cultivation of vegetables under open field conditions and protective cover, organic farming, INM/IPM, PHM and marketing upto retail level besides facilitating formation of Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) and their tie-up with market aggregators and financial institutions.

In addition to above, the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) consisting of ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and other public funded organizations is making concentrated efforts to develop improved vegetable varieties/hybrids, produce quality seeds and develop region- specific vegetable production technologies to bridge productivity gaps among different States. Private sector in the country is also actively engaged in providing quality seeds of superior varieties/hybrids to farmers in different regions.