

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3958
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
PRODUCTION OF PEPPER
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of pepper has gone down in the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to rejuvenate pepper growing areas under the National Horticulture Mission in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures proposed to be taken to enhance production of pepper in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Production of Pepper, which was 92,935 tonnes during the year 2005-06, has shown a declining trend and reached 47,396 tonnes during the year, 2008-09. The decline in production was mainly due to less production in the State of Kerala. The major reason for the decline in production of Pepper in Kerala is due to preponderance of old and senile Pepper gardens, area of which is estimated at 60,000 ha. Other major producers of Pepper are the State of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

State wise details of production of pepper in the country during 2005-06 to 2008- 09 is as under:
(Production in `000 tonnes)

State Kerala Karnataka Tamil Nadu All India (including others)

2005-06 87.6 3.2 1.1 92.9

2006-07 64.3 2.9 0.8 68.9

2007-08 42.0 3.6 0.7 47.0

2008-09 42.0 3.6 1.1 47.4

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, New Delhi

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Rejuvenation/Replanting of old and senile orchards including pepper is included as one of the components of National Horticulture Mission (NHM). Assistance is being provided for rejuvenation /replanting of Pepper @ 50% of the total cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15000/ha limited to 2 ha per beneficiary.

During the period from 2006-07 to 2008-09, an area of 32490 ha of old and senile Pepper gardens have been rehabilitated / rejuvenated with an expenditure of Rs 4191.83 lakhs.

Under NHM, during 2008-09, a special project on rejuvenation / replanting programme of Pepper in Idukki district of Kerala has been sanctioned to Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce. Under the project, it is proposed to cover an area of 0.60 lakh ha old and senile Pepper gardens at an estimated cost of Rs 120.00 crore over a period of five years.

(e): Following measures are being taken to enhance the production and productivity of Pepper under National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for integrated development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States(TMNE):

i. Production and distribution of good quality planting materials of pepper in large scale through well equipped Model nurseries and

Small nurseries under public and private sectors.

ii. Establishment of New Gardens of pepper.

iii. Adoption of Organic farming in pepper.

iv. Technology dissemination programmes through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Agricultural Universities and other research institutes.