

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4057

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

POTENTIAL OF BAMBOO

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Saroj Smt. Sushila

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks second in the world in bamboo diversity;

(b) whether bamboo forests in the country needs to be harnessed for remunerative returns and has adequate potential to generate employment in the sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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): Yes, Madam. India, with nearly 136 bamboo species, ranks second in the world in bamboo diversity.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. With diverse, extensive and large bamboo resources, India has immense, yet substantially untapped, potential to create employment and economic activities. This crop can be harnessed for its various uses such as construction material, pulp, handicrafts and for substitute of wood and other uses.

(d): Government of India has launched many initiatives for developing bamboo sector in the country. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled 'National Bamboo Mission' under Ministry of Agriculture is being implemented in 27 States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Government is also implementing another Scheme entitled 'National Mission on Bamboo Applications' under Ministry of Science & Technology aimed at promoting entrepreneurs for development of products involving applications of bamboo.

Intensification of Forest Management under Ministry of Environment & Forests is another scheme which supports State Forest Departments in management and plantation of bamboo and also supports special management efforts at the time of bamboo flowering. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) under Ministry of Environment & Forests is yet another scheme which supports afforestation of species including bamboo.