

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:398

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

PROMOTION OF HORTICULTURE

Yadav Shri Dharmendra;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people in the country are consuming more of fresh and processed horticultural products which indicate enormous potential and scope of horticulture and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is a need to improve crop productivity and efficiency in the value chains;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether there is a need to develop proper system of accreditation and rating of nurseries with clearly defined protocols; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to develop proper system of accreditation and rating of nurseries to promote horticulture in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 398 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2015.

(a): Yes, Madam. In the context of growing population, rising income and changing dietary habits, the demand for horticultural produce is increasing. In the last two decades, the production has increased from 96.6 million tons (1991-92) to all time high of 277.4 million tons (2013-14) which is approximately 3 times higher.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. There is still need to improve crop productivity to meet the growing demand. The present level of crop productivity in fruit crops is 12.3 tons/ ha which is higher than productivity level of few countries such as China (11.6 tons/ ha.) and Spain (9.1 tons/ ha.). But productivity of India is lower than USA (23.3 tons/ ha.), Indonesia (22.3 tons/ ha.), Turkey (13.6 tons/ha.) and Mexico (12.7 tons/ ha.). The productivity of vegetable crops is 17.3 tons/ha which is lower than the world average of 19.6 tons/ha. As such there is scope for increasing the productivity.

The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture has focused to improve the production and productivity through adoption of improved and appropriate technologies for regionally differentiated crops, which are agro-climatically most suitable for the State/ region. Under the missions, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to horticulture such as production of quality planting material, area coverage through high yielding varieties, vegetables seed production, creation of water resources, protected cultivation, organic farming, promotion of integrated nutrient & pest management, pollination support through bee keeping, horticulture mechanization, technology dissemination through demonstration and human resource development. Setting up of cold storages and creation of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure is also given higher priority on account of increasing the efficiency in value chain.

(d) & (e): A set accreditation and rating system of fruit plant nurseries with clearly defined protocols is in existence and National Horticulture Board is the Nodal Agency to assess for capability and competence for nursery. The technical specifications of horticulture planting material production procedures and guidelines have been issued by Government of India for according recognition to horticulture nurseries by National Horticulture Board (Annexure-I). So far, 1704 nurseries have been accredited in 24 States (Annexure-II).