

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4415  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015  
ONION CULTIVATION  
Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the suitability of onion cultivation in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to promote the onion cultivation in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the various steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam. During 2014-15, seeds of onion were sent to Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) by ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR), Pune for conducting experiment to see the possibilities of onion cultivation. Also National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Nashik during the year 2010-11 conducted demonstrations on onion cultivation under MIDH programme in Pallakkad district of Kerala on onion variety Agrifound dark Red during Rabi season.

(b) Onion cultivation can be taken up during rabi season in Kerala. NHRDF/ KAU introduced onion cultivation practices in Kerala and the crop has just started to take up. Also NHRDF and DOGR have supplied onion seeds to KVK Ernakulam, Thrissur, Peruvannamoli, RARS Ambalavayal and KAU for trial purpose and are in progress. The results of seeds supplied to KAU by DOGR are encouraging and are at primary level of experimentation. Based on preliminary studies, KAU has included this trial on onion cultivation as an adhoc recommendation in new package of practices of KAU.

(c) At this point of time the Government has no such proposal, however, there is potential to cultivate multiplier onion in Kerala. Trials on cultivation of onion are in progress in the state and results are encouraging on the basis of which it can be said that rabi cultivation of onion is possible in Kerala.

(d) ICAR-DOGR has taken up trials on onion cultivation in KAU. NHRDF-KAU has also taken initiative in supplying seeds for cultivation. Trails on cultivation of onion is going on KAU and in other KVKs of Kerala.