

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:82
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014
PLANTATION OF ARABIAN DATE TREES
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce plantation of Arabian date trees in desert areas of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey about the number of plants likely to be planted in one hectare of land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the financial assistance likely to be provided and the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government of Rajasthan is promoting date palm plantations in the state under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

At present two projects are under implementation, in the State, as per details mentioned below:-

(i) date palm plantations on Government farms in Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts.

(ii) date palm plantations on farmers' fields in 12 districts of the State.

(c) & (d): The number of plants likely to be planted in one hectare of land is recommended by the Central Institute of Arid Horticulture Bikaner, which has recommended 160 plants per hectare of land on farmer's field.

(e): As per information obtained from State Government of Rajasthan, under the project, financial assistance to an extent of 90% of the cost of plants is provided for a maximum area of 10 hectare.

Dates are a high value crop and the demand is currently being met through imports.