

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:680
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
ONION PRODUCTION
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of onion produced by each State including Maharashtra during the current year;
- (b) the details of the areas in Maharashtra affected by hailstorm damaging the onion crops in the recent past;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the loss suffered by the farmers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the various steps taken by the Government to increase the onion production and provide adequate remunerative prices to the farmers?

Answer

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

- (a): Madam, details of onion produced by each State including Maharashtra during the year 2013-14 is given in the statement at Annexure.
- (b) & (c): As per information furnished by Government of Maharashtra, an area of 1,34,774 hectares of onion crop was affected by hailstorm during early this year, 2014. The State Government assessed that more than 50% of area of the Rabi onion was affected due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains.
- (d): Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) w.e.f. 1.1.2014, which subsumes ongoing schemes on horticulture including National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH).

To enhance the production and productivity of vegetables including onion, MIDH provides support for seed production, vegetable cultivation in open fields, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming. Assistance is also extended for constitution of low cost onion storage structure to prevent post harvest losses. Besides, the scheme provides for setting up markets at different levels viz. wholesale, rural/apni Mandi, retail markets and even vending carts. Government is also implementing scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under the overall aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which covers these activities. In addition, the Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM) also provides for creation of post harvest infrastructure including storage.

To enhance overall production of onion, 'early Kharif' producing states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been requested to bring more area under onion cultivation.

State governments have also been asked to exempt fruits and vegetables from the purview of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act to enable direct sale of fruits and vegetables by the farmers.