

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:724
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
POMEGRANATE GROWERS
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pomegranate growers are suffering huge losses as the crop failed due to the vagaries of nature in various States in the country including Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the number of affected pomegranate growers is on rise every year;
- (d) if so, the number of affected growers in the country including Karnataka during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the financial and other assistance provided by the Government to pomegranate growers during the said period?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): As per information received from the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra, pomegranate crop was affected by vagaries of nature, including drought, hailstorms and heavy rains.

Details of area under pomegranate crop affected, including number of farmers affected during the last three years and the current year in Karnataka is as follows:

Year	Area Affected (in ha.)	No. of farmers affected
2011-12	749.00	2036
2012-13	7925.00	14340
2013-14	1311.93	3450
2014-15	15.63	10

Details of area affected and assistance provided to farmers in Maharashtra, by State Government and Government of India is as given below:

Year	Area Affected (in ha.)	Financial assistance (in crore)
2011-12	27570.00	20.05
2012-13	81303.00	121.95
2013-14	60745.00	151.86

(Estimated)

The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been subsumed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), which is being implemented in all States/UTs of the country, w.e.f 01.04.2014. Assistance is provided under MIDH for production and productivity improvement of fruit crops, including pomegranate. An outlay of Rs. 147.00 crores has been earmarked for Karnataka under MIDH, during 2014-15.

A special package to address Bacterial Blight Disease (BBD) in pomegranate for Rs. 28.19 crore, was sanctioned in 2006-07, for adoption of Good Management Practices, for a three year period. During 2013-14, state share of Good Management Practices package for pomegranate farmers to combat bacterial blight disease in Karnataka was Rs.1295.76 lakh and covered an area of

10,336 ha. included in the Special package provided to Maharashtra for rejuvenation of fruit crops, including pomegranate. As per information received from Karnataka, the state has released an amount of Rs. 322.28 crores during 2012-13 as input subsidy under National Drought Relief Fund / State Drought Relief Fund for both agriculture and horticulture crops. During 2014-15 an amount of Rs 326.50 crores compensation was released as input subsidy under NDRF / SDRF for both agriculture and horticulture crops, affected due to hailstorms.