

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2664

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017

Agriculture Projects in Desert Areas

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and Israel about the agriculture and irrigation projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any agriculture projects are being run in the desert or low rainfall areas in the country with the cooperation of Israel;
- (c) the manner in which the country's agriculture sector is likely to be benefited therefrom;
- (d) whether such projects will be implemented in the Vidarbha region also; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (e): An Agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture between India and Israel has been signed on 24th December, 1993 covering areas such as water and soil management, arid and semi arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, post harvest and processing technologies, plant and animal sciences, plant protection and control, veterinary sciences, agri-business, farm mechanization and technology, agricultural training and extension, agricultural research, agro-forestry.

27 Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in the areas of fruits and vegetables, flowers, date palm and brackish water in the states of Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Mizoram have been sanctioned. Out of these, 19 Centers of Excellence have been completed. Out of 27 Center of Excellence sanctioned, Center of Excellence for fruits at Sirsa, Haryana, Center of Excellence for Kesar Mango at Junagadh in Gujarat and Center of Excellence for Date Palm Farm in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan are in the desert areas.

The benefits accruing are in the nature of capacity building, knowledge exchange through visits of scientists and technicians, exchange of genetic resources, etc.

Center of Excellence for citrus established at Horticulture Section of College of Agriculture, Nagpur is in Vidarbha region.
