

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2624
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH JULY, 2019

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FRUIT CULTIVATION

2624. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Darjeeling Hills produce the best oranges in India and Kalimpong is an internationally renowned centre for horticulture with Terai and Dooars being a hub of organic vegetables and fruit production, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the farmers and fruit growers from the region have suffered due to lack of Government support for improved production technologies, cold storage and marketing, if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Yes, Darjeeling Hills is one of the best growing zones for oranges in India and is famous for Mandarin. The district is endowed with diverse agro climatic conditions suitable for the successful cultivation of a large number of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables from Terai to Dooars region. The details of area and production of kinnow/mandarin orange and vegetables in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts are given in Table 1 & 2.

Table 1- Area and Production of Kinnow/Mandarin Orange

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Final Estimate (2017-18)	
		Area in '000ha	Production in '000 MT
1	Darjeeling	2.434	23.980
2	Kalimpong	1.591	15.565

Table 2- Area and Production of Vegetables

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Final Estimate (2017-18)	
		Area in '000ha	Production in '000 MT
1	Darjeeling	13.456	162.079
2	Kalimpong	9.955	114.726

Contd...2/-

(b) & (c): There is no such information available. However, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is implemented for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa through various interventions. Assistance is available for production of planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile orchard and setting up of Post Harvest Management (PHM) infrastructure including establishment of cold storages etc.

The component of Post Harvest Management is demand/ entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc through commercial ventures for which assistance ranging from at the rate 35% to 55% of the eligible project cost in general areas and hilly and scheduled areas respectively, per beneficiary is available as credit linked back ended subsidy through respective State Horticulture Missions.
