

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1629

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005

HERB GROWERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems faced by the herb growers in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to fix the minimum price for herbs so that the farmers get remunerative prices for their product; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a): The major problems being faced by the herb growers in the country are availability of quality planting material, production technology, high cost of cultivation of some plants, inadequate infrastructure for marketing and market intelligence.
- (b): The Government has no proposal to fix minimum support price for herbs.
- (c): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture is providing assistance for activities like production of planting material, assistance for cultivation, technology dissemination through demonstration and training under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through Work Plan. The National Medicinal Plants Board under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing assistance to the herb growers for production of quality planting material, area expansion, value addition, develop marketing mechanism and contractual farming.