GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6493
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether research for agriculture crops including food crops have been taken care of;

(b) if so, the steps are taken to increase research and development of Agriculture Crops;

(c) if so, whether any such steps are taken for Coconut, Arecanut, Cotton, and Rice;

(d) whether Hydroponics a Japanese Technology for Rice Cultivation is experimented in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the effect on cost of production and productivity;

(f) whether there is any plan to adopt this technology and transfer its know how to farmers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps are taken to harness modern scientific knowledge and technology to develop inbred varieties and hybrids which are high yielding, resistant/tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses, efficient in input use, and suitable for mechanisation; develop production technologies for various agro-ecologies; genetic resources conservation and enhancement; seed production and technology; value addition, and to promote excellence in research of basic and strategic nature.

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to work at some agricultural universities and research institutes, the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod and its regional centres on coconut and arecanut; Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur and its centres on Cotton, and Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad on rice are exclusively working on various aspects for improving their productivity and production.

(d) to (g): Hydroponics is growing rice plants totally under water without soil. The water is enriched with all the major and minor nutrients required by the rice plant, and with oxygen by circulating air. The entire set up is maintained under controlled environmental chambers. This is very expensive technique used for research purpose only and not for large scale cultivation by farmers.