

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
MINI HORTICULTURE MISSION FOR NER
Sonowal Shri Sarbananda

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated to Small Farmers` Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) under Mini- Horticulture Mission for North Eastern Region (NER) during Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the details of modalities for utilizing the fund; and
- (c) the progress achieved during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.8 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5.7.2004.

(a) to (c): A Centrally sponsored scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture from 2001-02, i.e., the last year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. During the year, an amount of Rs.5713.10 lakhs have been released to Small Farmer`s Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) under Mini Mission-II, III and IV of the scheme.

The Scheme is being implemented in the Mission Mode approach with its four Mini Missions. The Mini-Mission – I relates to Research and Technology Development and is implemented by Indian Council of Agriculture Research. The Mini Mission-II relates to improving production and productivity and is coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by the Agriculture/Horticulture Department of the States. The Mini Mission-III relates to Post-harvest management, marketing and export and is Coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by National Horticulture Board, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, National Cooperative Development Corporation, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The Mini Mission-IV relates to processing and is implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Under the scheme, the respective State Governments send their proposals along with the yearly action plans. Based on the approved action plans, the Government of India releases funds to the implementing agencies for implementation of programmes under different Mini Missions. Funds for the programmes under Mini Mission-I are being routed through Indian Council of Agricultural Research and for the programmes under Mini Mission-II, III & IV excepting the programmes of National Horticulture Board are being routed through Small Farmer`s Agri-Business Consortium.

During the year 2001-02, a total sum of Rs.6724.96 lakhs have been released for implementation of the programmes under all the four Mini Missions. During the period an additional area of 12416 ha. was brought under different horticulture crops in the North Eastern region, besides creation of infrastructure facilities for improving productivity. The details of area covered under different sectors is as under:

Fruits	: 4859 ha
Vegetables	: 2535 ha
Spices	: 2805 ha
Plantation crops	: 781 ha
Flowers	: 273 ha
Medicinal Plants	: 390 ha
Aromatic Plants	: 773 ha.

In addition, infrastructure facilities such as 16 wholesale markets, 56 rural primary markets and 8 processing units were established for improving the marketing and processing of horticulture produce in the region.