

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:760

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RICE

Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi;Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nation General Assembly had declared the year 2004 as the International Year of Rice;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Indian Government in pursuance thereof and the results achieved therefrom;
- (c) whether any initiatives were made by the Government to invest in high yield varieties of rice, introduction of appropriate technology for post-harvest and pre-harvest machines and education of farmers on modern crop management methods; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Government of India undertook a number of activities for observing year 2004 as International Year of Rice to promote rice cultivation in the country. These included, organizing national Science Day and Quiz on Rice in India for school children, holding of national and international symposia, seminars, conferences, etc. Celebration of International Year of Rice helped in motivating farmers and State/UT Governments to improve rice productivity and in popularization of hybrid rice and the system of rice intensification (SRI) technology.

(c) & (d): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research – State Agricultural Universities System are responsible for development of rice hybrids and high yielding varieties. A large number of rice varieties have been released in last two years. These include Dhanrasi, Shanti, Mugad Sugandh, Sweta, CSR23, Sukara Dhan-I and Sumati. Further, three rice hybrids viz., Suruchi 5402, Pant Sankar Dhan-3 and Narendra Usar Sankar Dhan were also released for cultivation.

The ICAR has designed and fabricated a prototype for hitching mechanisms of the transplanter to the power tiller which is ready for trial. Further, Korean and Chinese transplanters were evaluated for planting hybrid rice. The Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMT&TIs) imparted training in pre-harvest technology. The trainings on post harvest technology were conducted on operation of combine harvesters, self-propelled and tractor operated reapers, threshers, straw-reapers, cleaners, graders, etc.

The Central Government supported various schemes for education of farmers on modern crop management methods. Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business centers was initiated in 2002-03. So far 2459 agri-ventres have been established. Further, during 2004-05, new schemes on Mass Media Support to Agriculture and Kisan Call Centres operating through toll free lines to provide expert advice to farmers were introduced. A new scheme, 'Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms' to make extension system farmer accountable has been introduced.