

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2687

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005

PRODUCTION OF PEPPER

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of pepper has gone down in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to launch a Pepper Technology Mission and Rejuvenation Programme in pepper growing areas of the country; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to enhance production of pepper in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a)&(b): The production of black pepper during the current year (2005-06) is expected to decrease due to delayed and heavy monsoon. The production of black pepper during the last three years is given below:

Year Production (tonnes)

2002-03 71,568

2003-04# 73,315

2004-05# 72,662

provisional

(c)&(d): There is no proposal under consideration of Government for launching pepper technology mission. Under the National Horticulture Mission, Government has decided to rejuvenate 81100 hectare area under horticulture crops including pepper at the cost of Rs.142.95 crore during current financial year. To meet the growing demand for planting material, Government is encouraging production of nucleus planting material of high yielding varieties and export oriented varieties of black pepper specific to different agro climatic conditions and their further multiplication and distribution through State Department nurseries and other selected private nurseries. Other programmes include replanting senile vines, curing and drying unit, vermin compost preparation, integrated pest management, organic farming etc.