

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3705
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
CULTIVATION OF SAFED MUSLI
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Safed Musli and agricultural produce has become popular in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantum of production of Safed Musli recorded in the country during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the remuneration for farmers cultivating Safed Musli considering the cost of production and expenses;
- (d) whether the Government has given any subsidy for cultivation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether subsidies has been discontinued;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether the Government proposes to encourage this cultivation by giving subsidy and other assistance; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Safed musli is getting popular with farmers particularly in central India. As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research estimates, the average area for the last three years for safed musli in the country is approximately 10,000 hectares.

(c): As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research estimates, the cost of cultivation per hectare is Rs.4.50 lakh and the prices of dry produce ranges between Rs.300 to Rs.800 per kg. Since the productivity per hectare is 5 tonnes, the farmers get remunerative price for cultivation of safed musli.

(d) to (g): Yes, Sir. Financial assistance in the form of 30% of input cost which is Rs.2.25 lakh per acre in case of safed musli as per operational guidelines of National Medicinal Plants Board is provided as subsidy to farmers under Contractual Farming Scheme of National Medicinal Plants Board. Since 2002-03, a total amount of Rs.1882.90 lakh has been sanctioned for 880 projects by the National Medicinal Plants Board.

(h)&(i): Yes, Sir. Financial assistance is being provided for cultivation of safed musli as mixed crop alongwith other identified plants.