

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:963
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
Singh Shri Lakshman

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved any long term strategy for diversification of agricultural produce and value addition enabling the production system to respond to external environment and creating export demand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): As a part of national policy, the Government is emphasizing to all States to promote crop diversification from cereal-centric cropping system to high value more remunerative crops and enterprises for diversifying the food basket, enhancing the income of farmers and stemming up of the degradation of natural resources.

To increase the competitiveness of Indian agriculture so as to enable farmers to get remunerative prices and also assist in increasing exports, a number of initiatives have been introduced. The Scheme implemented by the Government towards this end, inter-alia, include Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP). Further, to provide a level-playing field for export of agricultural products and to have increased access to international markets, a number of steps taken through schemes such as Transport Assistance Scheme operated by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna operated by Department of Commerce.