

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3610  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
PROMOTION OF FLORICULTURE  
Jai Prakash Shri

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to take steps to bring floriculture upto international standards in the country ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop genetic design of flowers ?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Government of India had provided assistance to the State Governments/UTs under comprehensive Macro Management Scheme for development of Agriculture including Horticulture, which included floriculture, up to the year 2004-05. The scheme provided flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes & fix targets as per their felt needs and requirements according to their Work Plans. After the launch of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during financial year 2005-06, the programme for Horticulture in Macro Management Scheme subsumed with National Horticulture Mission. The National Horticulture Mission addresses the issues related to holistic growth of horticulture including floriculture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies which include research, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management, processing and marketing in consonance with comparative advantage of each state/region and its diverse agro- climatic feature.

In the North East & Himalayan States of the country, the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture for North-Eastern States & Himalayan States

(TMNE), provides assistance for production of horticulture crops including floriculture crops.

In addition, Government is taking following steps to bring floriculture up to international standards in the country:

- (i) Government had approved setting up of six Agri Export Zones (AEZs) one each in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttaranchal & two in Tamil Nadu.
  - (ii) A Marketing facilitation Centre has been set up at Aalsmeer, The Netherlands under the MAI Scheme of MoC&I. The centre has helped the exporters in better price realization and improved quality of the cut flowers.
  - (iii) Wholesale market-cum-flower auction centres at Bangalore, Mumbai, Noida (UP) & Kolkata are approved with the assistance of Govt. to facilitate exports of flowers.
  - (iv) Perishable cargo centres have been set up at Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai & Trivandrum.
  - (v) APEDA rehabilitated 17 floriculture units.
  - (vi) Government has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.348.66 lakhs under infrastructure development scheme of APEDA for setting up of Tanflora Infrastructure Park at Hosur in Tamil Nadu for production of flowers for exports.
- (c) : Through hybridization, mutation and polyploidy breeding and through biotechnological tools, the Government is trying to improve the genetic design of flowers.

More than 500 rose varieties, some 100 gladiolus, more than 150 chrysanthemum varieties, a few orchids, jasmine bougainvillea, hibiscus, 8 tuberose, 8 China aster, one zinnia, a few cooperies and amaryllis, 2 marigold and a few hollyhock varieties have been developed through conventional or mutation breeding.

Introduction of new genes for resistance to certain diseases and pests as well as colours is going on through biotechnological interventions.