

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2851
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
DHEKIA PRODUCTION
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fern Dhekia (*Diplazium Esculentum*) which grows abundantly in the North- eastern Region contains high amount of crude protein next only to Soyabean as shown by the research conducted at the Guwahati University;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to promote its cultivation and consumption in the country;
- (c) whether any assistance from the Union Government has been sought for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) As per the research conducted by Guwahati University, the tender Dhekia leaves possess 33.27 per cent protein. Soybean contains around 43.2% protein in seeds.
- (b) to (d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has no mandate for research on this fern.