

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3672  
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007  
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HORTICULTURE SECTOR  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the poor infrastructure facilities has hampered the growth of Horticulture in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Indian Council for Research on International Economic Research has conducted any study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to improve infrastructure for horticulture sector in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations has recently done a study on `Can horticulture be a success story for India`. A part of the report looks into the supply chain inefficiency and infrastructure issue. The report emphasizes investment to improve the infrastructure condition and reduce the post harvest losses in the horticulture sector to increase the per unit productivity and per capita availability of fruits and vegetables. The general constraints faced by horticulture sector is inadequate grading and packaging facilities, poor marketing infrastructure, lack of agro-processing plants, inadequate marketing credit, lack of proper market organization, proper pricing, uniform grading and standardization of weights and measures, inadequate and poor dissemination of market information, poor post harvest handling, low and declining productivity.

(d): A Central Sector Scheme for `Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization` is being implemented in the country to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors to cater to the post harvest requirements of handling, value addition and marketing of surplus of various farm products including the horticultural produce. Under National Horticulture Mission, a component for setting up of modern terminal markets is covered. The terminal markets would be linked to a number of collection centres, conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. Under the public- partnership model envisaged for the terminal market projects, the private enterprises would bring the capital and management, the State Government will provide the regulatory clearance and the Central Government would participate in partly funding the equity capital of the project. In addition to terminal markets, financial assistance is being provided for taking up various activities involving investment in infrastructure for horticulture such as setting up of seed infrastructure, disease forecasting units, plant health clinics, leaf analysis labs and infrastructure for Post Harvest Management and marketing under National Horticulture Mission as well as Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim and three Himalayan States. During the last two years (2005-06 & 2006-07) an amount of Rs.8335.54 lakhs has been released to these States under National Horticulture Mission for setting up of Horticulture Infrastructures in public and private sectors.

Besides, National Horticulture Board provides assistance for establishment of horticulture infrastructure under the schemes of development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management and capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/ modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce.