

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2590

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010

SAFFRON CULTIVATION

Chaudhary Shri Arvind Kumar;Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh;Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing a scheme to increase saffron cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided to saffron growers during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase areas under saffron in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been implementing Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) to harness the potential of horticulture crops including saffron cultivation. Under the scheme, assistance provided to saffron growers during the last three years is as follows:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year/Component	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Saffron Cultivation	19.50	52.10	9.75	Nil	81.35

(c) to (e): Yes, Madam. Pattern of assistance has been enhanced w.e.f. 12-05-2010 to help and motivate saffron growers under the following major components:-

- (i) cultivation from Rs. 13000/ha to 60000/ha
- (ii) Tubewell/borewell from Rs. 12500 to Rs 1,03000/-
- (iii) Community water tank from Rs.10 lakh to Rs. 17.25 lakh