

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4474

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF HORTICULTURE CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rising population and living standard in India has triggered the demand for horticulture crops;
- (b) if so, the details of the demand increase registered during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make tissue culture technique popular in the country for enhancing the production of horticulture crops;
- (d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether any new technique has been developed by the National Agriculture Research Council in horticulture sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the funds earmarked for imparting training to farmers and the implementation of the various horticulture schemes during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (d): In the context of growing population, rising income and changing dietary habits, the demand for horticultural produce has increased. Horticulture production has increased from 96.6 million- tons (1991-1992) to 277.2 million tons (2013-14).

Under Mission for Development of Horticulture (MIDH), assistance is provided for setting up of new Tissue Culture Units and rehabilitation/ strengthening of existing Tissue Culture Units for enhancing production of planting material. For rehabilitation/strengthening, the rate of assistance is 100% of cost for Public Sector and 50% of cost for Private Sector to the maximum of Rs. 20.00 lakh/unit. For setting up of New TC units, rate of assistance is @100% of cost to Public Sector and 40% of cost for Private Sector to the maximum of Rs. 250.00 lakh/unit.

(e): Tissue culture protocols using tissue culture technique have been developed for various horticulture crops including date palm, oil palm, banana, potato, papaya, coconut, pomegranate, pointed gourd, aloe vera etc. In banana and potato, tissue culture technique is applied to develop nucleus seeds (potato) and planting material (banana).

(f): Details of funds earmarked under MIDH, including for Human Resource Development (HRD) are annexed.