

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5265**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27/03/2018

**DEVELOPMENT OF CUSTARD APPLE**

5265. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) has developed a variety of custard apple high in nutritional value;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this variety of custard apple is different from the same fruit in South India called Arka Sahan, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has seen any export potential of this new fruit; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and time by which its production is likely to start in large scale?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
**(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

- (a) Yes, Madam. ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru in the year 2000 developed a variety of custard apple called 'Arka Sahan'.
- (b) Custard apple cv. Arka Sahan was developed from the progeny of Island Gem (*Annona atemoya* Hort.) X Mammoth (*A. squamosa* L.). The fruits mature in the month of September-October. This variety has bigger size fruits with average fruit weight of 525 g. The fruit skin is waxy, light green in colour, moderately thick rind (0.5 cm). The fruit pulp is creamy white, juicy with mild pleasant aroma and less seed (9 /100 g Pulp). Fruits are sweet with 22.8% total sugars and more than 30°B TSS and lower acidity (0.30%). Fruits are also rich in Phosphorus (42.29 mg), Calcium (225 mg) and have shelf life of 6-7 days. A grown up orchard may produce 10-12 tonnes of fruits /ha every year. It is suitable for cultivation in hot dry regions. The variety requires manual pollination for higher yield of quality fruits.

(c) Yes Madam, this is the same Arka Sahan variety released by ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru. This variety was popularized by ICAR-IIHR among the farmers and so far Institute has supplied more than two lakh grafted plants. Apart from this, many private nurseries are also multiplying the plants of Arka Sahan. Now it is commercially grown in more than five state of India.

(d) Yes, Madam. Arka Sahan is highly suitable for export both as fresh fruit and as processed products. This variety has high pulp content of 65-70% as against 35-40% in other varieties of custard apple.

(e) Most of the commercial Arka Sahan plantations have been established in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. At present, majority of them are in pre-bearing age and economic yield of Arka Sahan can be harvested after 6 years of planting. The area under this variety is increasing every year and large quantities of fruits will be available for export in near future.

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