

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3383
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16TH MARCH, 2021

HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN WEST BENGAL

3383. SHRI RAJU BISTA

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

- (a) the details of the production of horticulture crops production including vegetables, fruits, and flowers, in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur districts of West Bengal;
- (b) whether the production of oranges and cardamom in Darjeeling and Kalimpong region has gone down in the past decades;
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Ministry to investigate the reasons for the same and the steps taken to assist the cultivators; and
- (d) whether the Ministry would consider establishing a Central university for horticulture or agriculture in North Bengal, particularly in Darjeeling or Kalimpong District, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The details of the production of horticulture crops production including vegetables, fruits, and flowers, in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur districts of West Bengal, as reported by Government of West Bengal is at **Annexure-I**

(b) & (c): As reported by Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Agricultural Research Institute(ICAR-IARI), the area and production of Darjeeling mandarin has gone down in past decade because of shifting of area to vegetables cultivation, spices(large Cardamom), tourism and other crops.

ICAR-IARI has reported the following remedial steps for addressing the issue of decline in mandarin cultivation:-

1. Started production of healthy planting materials (grafted and nucellar seedlings).
2. To address the issue of rootstock availability, the institute has produced more than 1 lakh rootstocks.
3. Four village cluster in the region of Sitong, Mungpoo, Balason and Iche Gaon was adopted and farmers were mobilized and trained for scientific Darjeeling mandarin cultivation.
4. Under Indian Agricultural Research Institute(IARI) extension and technology transfer programme with the assistance of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana(RKVY), Government of West Bengal and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD), so far 20,000 new healthy planting materials were distributed among the farming communities.
5. Approximately, 100 ha area has been covered under new plantation by IARI (Research Station), Kalimpong.
6. Four (4) nurseries were established for production of healthy planting materials of Darjeeling mandarin by the farmers at village level in Mungpoo, Sitong, Balason and Iche gaon of Kalimpong and Darjeeling hills.

The production of cardamom has not gone down in Kalimpong and Darjeeling region during the last decade. In fact, the production of cardamom in this region has increased marginally during the past decade from 716 tonnes in 2010-11 to 833 tonnes in 2019-20.

(d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has reported that there is no such proposal under consideration in the ICAR for establishing a Central University for Horticulture or Agriculture in North Bengal.

Annexure - I referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3383 on 'Horticultural Production in West Bengal' due for answer on 16.3.2021

District-wise Area/ Production of Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers							
						A:Area in '000 Ha P:Production in '000 MT	
Sl. No	District	Vegetables		Fruits		Flowers	
		2019-20		2019-20		2019-20	
		A	P	A	P	A	P
1	DARJEELING	18.47	224.55	9.53	200.63	1.03	17.62
2	DINAJPUR UTTAR	50.63	930.18	11.48	205.64	0.32	2.10
3	KALIMPONG	12.90	138.44	3.29	37.83	0.82	14.21
