

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1290
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH JULY, 2021

HORTICULTURE CROPS PRODUCTION IN WEST BENGAL

1290. 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 including vegetables, fruits, and flowers, in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur districts of West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that the production of oranges and cardamom in Darjeeling and Kalimpong regions has gone down in past decades;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to assist the growers;
- (d) whether the Ministry will consider establishing a central university for horticulture or agriculture in North Bengal, particularly in Darjeeling or Kalimpong District; and
- (e) if so, the details of the same?

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 including Vegetables, Fruits, and Flowers, in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur districts of West Bengal for the year 2019-20, 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) and Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV), the area and production of Orange (Mandarin) has gone down in Darjeeling and Kalimpong in past decade because of shifting of area to Vegetables Cultivation & Spices (large Cardamom). Area under large Cardamom in Darjeeling and Kalimpong are increasing.

ICAR-IARI has reported the following remedial steps for addressing the issue:-

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 One Lakh rootstocks.
3. Four village clusters in the region of Sitong, Mungpoo, Balason and Icche gaon was adopted and farmers were mobilized and trained for scientific Darjeeling mandarin cultivation.
4. Under 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 nurseries were established for production of healthy planting materials of Darjeeling Mandarin by the farmers at village level in Mungpoo, Sitong, Balason and Icche gaon of Kalimpong and Darjeeling hills.

UBKV has informed that they are giving major emphasis to Clonal selection of Darjeeling Mandarin Orange and production of quality planting materials to improve the production of Oranges in the region.

As per Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), the production of Cardamom has not gone down in Kalimpong and Darjeeling region during the last decade. In fact, the production of Cardamom in Darjeeling region has increased from 476 Tonne in 2017-18 to 483 Tonne in 2020-21 and production in Kalimpong region has increased from 347 Tonne in 2017-18 to 352 Tonne in 2020-21.

(d) & (e) 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. 1290 on 'Horticultural Crops Production in West Bengal' due for answer on 27.07.2021

District-wise Area/ Production of Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers							
				A:Area in '000 Hectare P:Production in '000 Tonne			
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	KALIMPONG	12.90	138.44	3.29	37.83	0.82	14.21
3	NORTH DINAJPUR	50.63	930.18	11.48	205.64	0.32	2.10
