

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON**

BENEFIT UNDER NAIS TO APPLE GROWERS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH .

1700

Smt. Viplove Thakur

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of farmers benefited under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in the country including Himachal Pradesh during last three years, year- wise;
- (b) the targets fixed and achieved thereunder during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State- wise;
- (c) whether apple growers of Himachal Pradesh have not been able to reap the benefits of NAIS;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that the benefit of the above scheme reaches the apple growers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b):The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a demand driven scheme, therefore, no targets are fixed under the scheme. State-wise details of total number of farmers covered under the scheme in the country including that of Himachal Pradesh, during last three years, is annexed.

(c) & (d):Yes, Sir. Plantation/perennial horticultural crops like apple are not covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) due to their peculiar nature and non-availability of past yield data. The scheme covers only food crops, oilseeds, pulses and annual commercial/ horticultural crops for which yield data is available for a requisite number of years.

(e) & (f):Keeping in view the suggestions of States/UTs and other stake-holders, a Joint Group was constituted by the Government, to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The Group has reviewed the scheme and made important recommendations including insurance coverage for perennial horticultural and vegetable crops as a separate scheme. These crops can be covered under Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), introduced in consultation with implementing insurance companies and respective State Governments. Accordingly, Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to implement Pilot WBCIS to cover Apple crop during Rabi 2009-10 season in Theog, Jubbal, Narkanada, Rohru & Chirgaon blocks of Shimla district and Ani Block of Kullu district.