

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Production of foodgrains has increased from 174.77 million tonnes in 2002-03 to 234.47 million tonnes in 2008-09, growing by 34 per cent in aggregate. The fertilizer subsidy increased to Rs. 99,494.71 crore in 2008-09 mainly on account of increase in international prices.

(b) A major reason for declining marginal productivity in relation to fertilizer application is unbalanced use of fertilizers over the years affecting soil health and its productivity.

(c) The consumption of fertilizers per hectare in the country during 2006 was 111.8 kg. compared to 333.0 kg. in China.

National Horticulture Mission

4620. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Horticulture Mission has achieved its goal of development of horticulture sector during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of and in hectare brought under horticultural crops and plantation during last 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched during Tenth Plan (from May, 2005-06), for the holistic development of horticulture sector in the country. All the States and Union Territories are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which are covered under another Mission namely the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE). The scheme is continued during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the scheme was implemented for a period of 2 years. The achievements made under the Mission during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as under:—

- 637 new nurseries were set up.
- An area of 4.07 lakh ha. covered under various horticulture crops and 0.353 lakh ha. under senile plantation has been rejuvenated.
- Organic farming and integrated pest management programme was taken up in 0.37 lakh ha. and 1.28 lakh ha. respectively.
- Under the post harvest management components, 74 pack house, 14 cold storages, 4 refrigerated vans, 2 mobile/primary processing units, 8 whole sale markets and 40 rural markets have been assisted.

(c) During last 10 years (2000-01 to 2009-10), an area of 4.55 million ha. has been brought under various horticulture crops including plantation crops in the country.