

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Inclusion of more districts of Odisha under National Horticulture Mission**

*246. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha has requested the Ministry for inclusion of the remaining six districts under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and allocation of Rs. 120 crore for all the thirty districts of the State; and

(b) if so, whether he would consider enhancing the allocation accordingly and including the remaining six districts under NHM?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Odisha has requested for including all the 30 districts of the State under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and have submitted their Annual Action Plan for the year 2012-13 with an outlay of Rs. 120.15 crore.

Inclusion of districts under NHM under the guidelines is based on the potential for development of horticulture of the district to avoid thin distribution of available resources and poor deployment of manpower to provide extension support thereby defeating the objective of NHM to provide holistic growth of horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies in consonance with comparative advantage of each State/region and its diverse agro-climatic features. When NHM started in 2005-06, 16 districts were covered in Odisha. Later on, at the request of State Government, three districts were added in 2006-07 and five districts in 2007-08. However, subsequent requests to increase the number of districts were not accepted. For last two years, no additional districts have been taken under NHM except for Bundelkhand Package. Allocation to States are also limited by the overall Plan allocation for NHM. However, keeping in view comparatively better performances by Odisha, whereas there is an increase of about 12% for NHM budget at the Union level for 2012-13, the State Government has been advised to recast the Annual Action Plan 2012-13 for Rs. 80.00 crore, which is approximately 30% more than previous year's allocation.

Sub-urban Railway station status to Kishangarh

†*247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kishangarh is about twenty kilometres away from Ajmer and lies at Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer route;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.