

Support to farmers growing flowers

3003. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the floriculture exports from the country during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to address the problems of inadequate support infrastructure and cold chain management that adversely affect the floriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other measures taken by Government for providing technological and financial support to flower growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per available information, floriculture products exported from the country during last five years and the current year is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under its financial assistance scheme for XII Plan, has been providing assistance for developing and promoting exports of its scheduled products including horticulture and floriculture.

- 2. To address the issue of inadequate infrastructure and cold chain, financial assistance is provided under the Component of Infrastructure Development of APEDA Scheme. APEDA has set up Centres for Perishable Cargo (CPCs) at major exit airports. Flower auction centres have also been set up at Bangalore, Noida, Mumbai to facilitate export of flowers.
- 3. The exporters are also supported for creation of infrastructure required for post harvest handling, specialized cold storages like high humidity, controlled/modified atmosphere, mechanized grading, sorting and packaging.
- 4. To mitigate the freight disadvantage, Transport assistance is provided @ at least of 10% of FOB Value, 25% of freight, specific rate (₹ per kg.).

(c) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented *w.e.f.* 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector, including floriculture. Under the component of flowers, farmers are provided assistance *i.e.* 40% of the cost ranging from ₹40,000/ha. to ₹ 1.50 lakh/ha., limited to 2 ha. per beneficiary.

Under ICAR, the All India Coordinated Research Project on Floriculture (AICRPF) carries nation-wide interdisciplinary research by linking ICAR Institutes with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). AICRP on Floriculture provides a platform for applied region specific research including testing of the technologies and strengthens the outreach programme. Presently, the technical support is provided by the centres of AICRP on Floriculture spreading across the country. It deals with research projects on thirteen commercial flower crops including foliage plants and specialty/unexplored flowers.

Statement

Five Year and Current Year Export Data of Floriculture

Year	Qty. (MT)	₹ Lacs	US\$ Mill
2009-10	26,814.52	29,446.36	62.12
2010-11	28,906.79	29,604.04	64.95
2011-12	30,926.02	36,532.15	76.19
2012-13	27,121.86	42,344.60	77.79
2013-14	22,485.21	45,590.62	75.31
2014-15 (April-Sep.)	11,333.70	23,504.26	39.03

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)

Boosting production of agricultural produces

3004. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that crop yield could be increased by gene variation;

(b) if so, for how many crops such a gene variation is adopted and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that scientists in USA have succeeded in boosting the production of tomato by as much as 100 per cent by gene variation; and

(d) if so, whether Government intends to strengthen the research and take aggressive steps to boost production of foodgrains, fruits, vegetables and other agricultural produces?