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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Gene variation has been successfully utilized by scientists of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities to enhance crop yield.

(b) High yielding varieties with tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses have been developed by NARS through gene variation in field and horticultural crops such as rice, wheat, maize, millets, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, jute, tomato, brinjal, okra, chili, melons, grapes and papaya. A total of 732 varieties/hybrids in field and horticultural crops have been released during last five years as shown in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Scientists at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, USA, led by Professor Zachary Lippman in collaboration with Israeli scientists, reported to exploit a set of gene variation to increase yield in tomato.

(d) Research institutions under NARS and Department of Biotechnology of Government of India carry out basic and applied research in field and horticultural crops to exploit gene/genetic variation, through integrated breeding approaches including molecular biology and genetic engineering for enhancing the agricultural production.

Statement

Varieties/hybrids of different field and horticultural crops released during the last five years (2009-2013)

Crop-group	Varieties/hybrids released in numbers					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cereals	63	68	31	75	70	307
Oilseeds	24	29	10	19	15	97
Pulses	21	29	12	19	8	89
Fibre crops	5	15	1	10	3	34
Forage crops	7	5	4	1	4	21
Sugar crops	0	5	2	5	6	18
Vegetables	3	18	10	17	3	51
Fruits	8	11	0	12	0	31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Spices and condiments	8	1	1	12	3	25
Tuber crops	0	0	17	7	5	29
Flowers	7	8	2	0	13	30
TOTAL	146	189	90	177	130	732

Cold storage facilities for horticulture produces

3005. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country stores only two per cent of its horticulture produces in temperature controlled conditions;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any new initiatives to improve cold storage facilities for horticulture produces: and

(c) the details of FDI inflow in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per available information, during 2013-14, the production of fruits and vegetables was 254 million MT against which available temperature controlled storage capacity was 31.82 million MT.

(b) Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food Processing and Industries and Ministry of Commerce and Industry is implementing programmes to improve cold storage facilities for horticulture produce.

Besides, Government has taken following initiatives for improving the cold storage facilities for horticulture produce:

(i) Funds have been earmarked for creating warehousing facilities (including cold storage) from the allocations of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

(ii) Excise Duty has been exempted on import of air conditioning equipment and refrigeration panels for cold chain infrastructure including conveyor belts. Exemption from basic custom duty for manufacture of refrigerated vans/ trucks and service tax exemption for erection, commissioning or installation of cold storage has also been extended.