

Shortfall in production of chillies

*96. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports of a steep shortfall in the production of chillies in major chilli producing States like Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/contemplated by Government to help the distressed chilli farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) According to the available official estimates upto 2014-15, there is no shortfall in the production of Chillies in India as well as in Andhra Pradesh, as is evident from the table given below:

Production of Chillies in India including Andhra Pradesh

	Production (In lakh Tonnes)	
	2013-14	2014-15
Andhra Pradesh*	6.02	7.39
ALL INDIA	14.92	16.05

Source: Directorate of Arecanut and Spice Development (DASD)

* Figures for Andhra Pradesh are for the bifurcated state.

However, Andhra Pradesh has reported drought during Kharif and also incidence of Gemini virus in Chillies, which may marginally affect the yield during 2015-16.

(c) Government has taken several measures to promote spices production including chillies, which are as under:

- Micro-irrigation has been promoted under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) for high water use efficiency.
- Providing training programmes for control of Gemini virus and steps taken to overcome drought situation.
- Conducting programmes for creation of awareness among chilly farmers about benefits and adverse effects of usage of bio-pesticides.

- Under MIDH, ₹ 91.06, ₹ 64.68 and ₹ 55.75 crores have been provided in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively as Government of India share to implement National Horticulture Mission in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), ₹ 294.60, ₹ 237.51 and ₹ 433.77 crores have been provided in year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively for mitigating the adverse impact of national calamities in the State.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many of us may not be aware that chilli farmers of Andhra Pradesh are illiterate, and most of the chilli growing areas are very backward areas. In this background, the farmers do not know the fluctuations of the market and they are not experts in marketing their commodity. If alternative usage of chillies, such as using chillies in dyes, using chillies in chemicals and using chillies in pharmaceutical industry, is developed, if these kinds of agro-based industries are developed, to support chilli growers in distress times, it will help the farmers. Would the Minister consider this request?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, वैल्यू ऐडिशन के लिए कई प्रकार की योजनाएँ चल रही हैं, प्रोसेसिंग की भी कई योजनाएँ चल रही हैं। मैं एक उदाहरण बताना चाहूंगा कि एक गांव का पूरा इलाका हरी मिर्च की खेती करता था। बाद में, उसको लाल मिर्च में divert करके वहां पर उसका पाउडर बनाने का प्लांट लगाया गया। उस पूरे एरिया में जहां सिर्फ मिर्च की खेती होती थी और पहले एक साल में छः लाख की आमदनी होती थी, अब वैल्यू ऐडिशन के बाद उस गांव की सालाना आमदनी 13 लाख रुपये बढ़ गई है। सरकार इस दिशा में प्रयत्नशील है। वैल्यू ऐडिशन के लिए हम कई प्रकार की सहायता कर रहे हैं। प्रोसेसिंग के लिए भी प्रोसेसिंग मिनिस्ट्री और हमारी मिनिस्ट्री द्वारा सहायता दी जा रही है।

श्री सभापति: दूसरा प्रश्न। ...**(व्यवधान)**... One minute, please.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, अब क्वेश्चन ऑवर का आधा मिनट, एक मिनट बाकी रह गया है। सर, ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस आपसे एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: After Question Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**... सर, ये बहुत ही इम्पोर्टेंट क्वेश्चन पूछ रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, let me finish my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we will do it immediately after Question Hour.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Is the Ministry thinking of giving any warehousing facilities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid Question Hour is over. Before I adjourn the House, hon. Leader of the House wanted to say something.