

**Production of fruits in Andhra Pradesh**

\*193. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh was the largest producer of fruits in the country till 2013-14 and even after bifurcation, residuary Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fruits in 2015-16;

(b) if so, whether any special incentive is being given to Andhra Pradesh by APEDA in improving the productivity, quality and also export of its produce, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the Ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is planning to push agri-export from Andhra Pradesh under Government's 'Act East Policy'?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) United Andhra Pradesh has not been the largest producer of fruits in the country till 2013-14 except in the year 2012-13, when it was the largest producer. Even after its bifurcation, the residuary Andhra Pradesh is still the second largest producer of fruits in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

(b) For export promotion of fruits and vegetables from the country including Andhra Pradesh, following initiatives/measures are taken by APEDA:—

**Initiatives taken by APEDA:**

- 1. Setting up of Vapour Heat Treatment Facility (VHT):** With the objective of mitigating the post harvest quarantine requirement of importing countries like Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Mauritius, South Korea and EU, APEDA has assisted the State Government Agencies for setting up of VHT facilities for common use by the exporters. The two common facilities have been set up with the help of Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation (APAGROS) at Nuzvid and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. Setting up Common Infrastructure Facilities:** APEDA has provided financial assistance to State Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of common infrastructure facilities such as Aseptic packaging common facility at Chittoor, Pack house for horticulture produce at Vizag.
- 3. Market Access Initiatives:** APEDA has been making efforts in obtaining market access for fresh mangoes in several markets. The efforts of APEDA have led to opening of markets in US, Japan, China, Australia, Canada, Mauritius, South Korea and New Zealand for export of fresh fruits and

vegetables. This has benefited the export of the fresh produce from Andhra Pradesh.

4. **Scheme for Recognition of Horticulture Pack House:** APEDA has launched a comprehensive pack house recognition scheme for export of fruits and vegetables with the objectives to improve the quality of the produce. APEDA has registered 162 pack houses processing fruits including mango out of which four pack houses are recognized in Andhra Pradesh also.
5. **Horti Net Traceability System:** APEDA has developed the Horti Net Traceability System under which the supply chain of export of grapes to EU countries has been organized. The system is being implemented with farmer registration module for pomegranates, mangoes and other identified potential vegetables. The system will cover the exports of identified fresh fruits and vegetables in Andhra Pradesh.
6. **Sensitization Programme:** Series of sensitization programme have been organized for various products in cluster development (Two clusters have been identified in Andhra Pradesh).

Further, for export promotion of fresh fruits and vegetables from the country including united Andhra Pradesh, APEDA is providing Financial Assistance under its XII Plan Scheme along with other APEDA scheduled products:—

- (i) Infrastructure Development
- (ii) Market Development
- (iii) Quality Development
- (iv) Transport Assistance

(c) Under Act East Policy, Government is promoting economic and cultural ties, development of strategic relationship with the neighbours in South-East Asia thereby improving the economic development of the North Eastern Region. However to boost exports, recently a new scheme has been launched namely “Merchandize Exports from India (MEIS)” under Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, wherein the exporters/farmers are incentivized for export of their goods/products including fruits and vegetables to specified markets. This would benefit all the farmers, including those of Andhra Pradesh. Besides this the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI), Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE), etc. to provide assistance to encourage exports. These schemes are open to exporters/associations from all States/UTs, including Andhra Pradesh.