

**Promotion of fruit production in Maharashtra**

187. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is far behind in fruit production, except for banana, oranges and grapes in organized manner in comparison to other States despite potential, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has initiated any programme/scheme for increase in fruit production in Maharashtra or there is something in store for the near future, which may go a long way in further improvement of the economic condition of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As far as fruits production in the country is concerned, the State of Maharashtra was at first position during 2013-14 and 2014-15. However, during 2015-16, it was at third position in total fruit production in the country. The area and production of total fruits in Maharashtra has declined during 2014-15 and 2015-16 mainly due to drought condition in the State during these years.

(b) The Government is taking several steps to ensure enhanced quality and productivity of fruits and vegetables in all the States including Maharashtra. Some of these steps are as under:—

- In order to boost the production of vegetables and fruits in the country, Government is implementing a Scheme called “Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture” (MIDH) which provides support to all the States including Maharashtra, for production of quality planting material, improved quality seed production, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, creation of infrastructure to prevent post harvest losses of horticultural crops, adoption of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming including insitu generation of organic inputs.
- Government is also providing assistance to farmers for increasing horticulture production under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme.
- Government of Maharashtra, in particular, has been implementing area expansion programmes like Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) since 1990-91 and Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MREGS)

since 2011-12 for development of various dry land and irrigated fruit crops on the basis of 100% subsidy starting from planting stage up to 3 years maintenance of fruit orchard.

**Scheme for development and production of fodder**

188. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme/programme for the development and production of animal fodder, especially in the context of prevailing widespread drought in various States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether pasture land in villages is on the decline on account of degradation and/or encroachment resulting in scarcity of animal fodder, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of rural pastures/grazing land, State-wise, along with action taken for removal of encroachment on such land at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase fodder production in various parts of the country by providing financial assistance to the farmers/Co-operatives through the States/UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development under the following components.

Sl. No.	Name of the Components
1.	Fodder Production from Non-forest Wasteland/rangeland/grassland/non-arable land
2.	Fodder Production from Forest land
3.	Fodder Seed Procurement/Production and Distribution
4.	Introduction of Hand Driven Chaff-Cutter
5.	Introduction of Power Driven Chaff-Cutter
6.	Distribution of Low Capacity, Tractor Mountable Fodder Block Making Units, hay baling machines/reapers/forage harvesters
7.	Establishment of Silage Making Units
8.	Establishment of by-pass Protein Production Units