

Tests on Bt Cotton by ICAR

†3142. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council for Agricultural Research is conducting tests on utility of Bt cotton hybrids, from the point of view of its production in northern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) by when the said tests are likely to be completed;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to yield of Bt cotton in Northern India, till the tests are completed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trials are being conducted at ten locations, three each in Punjab and Rajasthan and two each in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to understand yield performance, bollworm damage and reduction in use of pesticides.

(c) The first year's trial results are expected by March 2003.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise, Sir.

Apple production

†3143. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of apple produced in major apple growing States in the country, during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the area of apple cultivation in such State is decreasing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of steps to be taken by Government, to encourage such States for producing apples?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANADAV): (a) The available details of area and production of apple during the last two years in the major apple growing States is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir. The area under apple cultivation has increased marginally from 2.383 lakh ha. in 1999-2000 to 2.398 lakh ha. during 2000-01.

(c) The Government is providing assistance to the farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Marco Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan for taking up various activities including development of fruits under which apples are also covered. This scheme provides flexibility to the State Governments to prioritize their activities as per their felt needs. Assistance is provided for activities like supply of good quality planting material through nurseries, coverage of area with improved varieties, technology dissemination through training of farmers, creation of infrastructural facilities like disease forecasting units, plant health clinics, leaf/tissue analysis labs, on farm handling of produce and mechanization.

Besides, the National Horticulture Board is providing back-ended capital investment subsidy for development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management.

Statement

State-wise area and Production of apple in India

Area (in 000' H.A.)/production (000' MT.)

State/UT	1999-2000		2000-01	
	Area	Production	Area	Production
Arunachal Pradesh	6.7	8.5	6.7	8.5
Himachal Pradesh	88.7	49.1	88.7	376.7
Jammu & Kashmir	86.7	929.0	88.2	751.3
Uttaranchal	56.0	60.5	56.0	89.7
Others	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
TOTAL:	238.3	1047.4	239.8	1226.6