

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3391
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31/03/2023

SAFFRON CULTIVATION IN LEBONG VALLEY

3391 SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that saffron cultivation at Lebong Valley of Darjeeling Hills has shown promising results;
- (b) steps taken by the Ministry to fund and encourage saffron cultivation at Lebong Valley of Darjeeling Hills; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Yes. Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV), Pundibari, West Bengal has conducted preliminary multi-locational research trials at different altitudes of Darjeeling Hills in the year 2022 for assessing 'Saffron' cultivation. For these preliminary trials, the seed corms were collected from Advance Research Station for Saffron and Seed spices, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir and from the Saffron growers of Pampore, Kashmir. The initial results of these trials were very encouraging at LebongValley for commercial 'Saffron' cultivation.

North East Centre for Technology Application & Reach (NECTAR), Shillong has also undertaken a Saffron Cultivation in pilot scale in North Eastern region with the support of the respective State Government Departments of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through States based on their Annual Action Plan, which are prepared by States keeping in view of their specific requirement towards balanced horticulture development, adaptability of agro-climate and development prospects in the State. As such, there is no assistance sought from State Government for promotion of Saffron in Lebong Valley of Darjeeling Hills.
