

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2589
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11/08/2023

PROMOTING CULTIVATION OF HORTICULTURE AND VEGETABLES

2589. SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that massive overproduction of grains like wheat and rice creates very low value in comparison to high value horticulture, vegetables, fisheries, poultry and dairy;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to encourage farmers to cultivate horticulture and vegetables; and
- (c) the steps being taken to tap the huge potential available in different parts of the country in horticulture and vegetables?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): As per National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, the value of output from cereals including Wheat and Rice was estimated at Rs. 6,93,223 Cr whereas the value of output from Horticulture including Fruits and Vegetables was estimated at Rs. 8,27,201 Cr during 2021-22 at current prices.

In order to encourage farmers for growing horticulture and vegetables, which provide more value and remunerative prices in comparison to grain crops, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture in the country. All States/UTs are covered under MIDH.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for activities such as Production of Planting Material, Vegetable Seed Production, Cultivation of high yielding varieties of Fruits & Vegetables, Rejuvenation of Senile Orchards, Protected Cultivation, Creation of Water Resources, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Horticulture Mechanization, Creation of

Post Harvest Management (PHM) and Marketing Infrastructure for promotion of Horticulture Sector in the country. Financial assistance @ 25% to 55% of the total cost for different components is being provided under the MIDH Scheme. As a result, horticulture sector has recorded highest ever horticulture production of 350.97 million tons during 2022-23 (I Advance Estimates) and thus contributing significantly towards national objective of doubling of farmer's income.

There are two autonomous organizations namely National Horticulture Board (NHB) and Coconut Development Board (CDB), two Directorates namely Directorate of Cashewnut & Cocoa Development (DCCD) and Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development (DASD) and one Institute i.e. Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH) under the umbrella MIDH scheme, which are also implementing various schemes to encourage the farmers to grow horticulture and vegetable crops.

In addition, with a view to tap the huge potential available in different parts of the country in horticulture and vegetable crops, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched a Horticulture Cluster Development Program to address the concerns of horticulture value chain from Pre-production, Production, Post Harvest Management and Value Addition, Logistics Marketing and Branding to increase the competitiveness of Indian horticulture sector in domestic and export markets. The Cluster Development Program will also facilitate in adoption of innovative technologies and to achieve economies of scale in production, post harvest and marketing of horticulture produce.
