

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1313
ANSWERED ON- 06/12/2024

MEGA OIL PALM PLANTATION DRIVE AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

1313. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether Mega Oil Palm Plantation Drive 2024 was recently launched;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the milestones achieved;
- (c) whether oil palm plantations in regions of significant biodiversity, besides affecting underground water availability also degrades soil fertility; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Yes sir. The Mega Oil Palm Plantation Drive, 2024 was organised from 15th July, 2024 to 30th September, 2024. Around 25 lakh planting materials were distributed among 15755 farmers to cover more than 17,000 ha. area under Oil Palm cultivation in potential areas.

(c): Oil Palm plantation under government program is promoted only in potential area having suitable agroclimatic conditions. As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Oil Palm cultivation does not adversely affect the underground water availability and it requires less water compared to crops like Banana, Sugarcane and Rice. Besides, government is also promoting drip irrigation alongwith oil palm plantation by way of subsidy to ensure optimum utilisation of water. Further, soil fertility is not affected as oil palm produces high biomass in form of leaves and empty fruit bunches, which enable soil to regain its fertility.

(d): Does not arise.
