

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2081
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13/12/2024

PROMOTION OF HYDROPONICS IN METROPOLITAN CITIES

2081. SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey on the total number of urban farming communities at present in the country and those who use hydroponic farming, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details regarding the total amount of funds allocated and utilized for increasing hydroponic farming especially in urban and metropolitan cities over the last four years, State-wise, especially in Maharashtra; and
- (c) whether Government has considered introducing any schemes/ incentives to increase use of hydroponic farming in urban areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Hydroponics is a technology to cultivate crops in soilless media. This technology is useful in areas where quality of soil is not good for cultivation or soil is infested with nematodes. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has not conducted any survey on number of urban farming communities engaged in use of hydroponic farming.
- (b): Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has not allocated funds to States for increasing hydroponic farming. However, assistance is available for protected cultivation under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Some States have introduced State level programmes for incentivizing vertical farming including hydroponics. Government of Maharashtra has sanctioned Rs. 96.11 lakh during 2023-24 for a project on vertical farming, hydroponics and aeroponics to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baramati for standardization of technology and promoting of soilless farming. Further, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has allocated Rs. 106.22 lakh under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Institute for

Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow during 2017-2020 for refinement and demonstration of hydroponic technology for high value vegetable production in subtropical areas.

(c): ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, (IARI), PUSA, New Delhi is promoting smart urban farming and protected cultivation through its Centre for Protected Cultivation. The centre has designed and developed various indigenous smart urban farming model like soilless cultivation, hydroponics, aeroponics and multilayer vertical farming. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Institutes and Universities are also engaged in development and standardization of technologies for Hydroponics for different regions of the country. ICAR- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, ICAR- Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla and ICAR- Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow are providing trainings and demonstrations to interested stakeholders to create awareness among farmers for adoption of Hydroponics. Agriculture/ Horticulture Universities are also educating farmers about the benefits of these technologies in water scares and nematode infested areas of the country.
