

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 671
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05/12/2025

CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND PROMOTION OF HIGH-VALUE CROPS.

671 #. SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is making efforts to promote more profitable cash and horticultural crops and shifting away from the prevailing rice-wheat-based crop system;
- (b) whether steps are being taken in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana to encourage farmers to shift from rice/wheat to other crops;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether these States are encouraging the adoption of alternative crops that yield higher incomes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI. RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Government of India is encouraging diversified production of commercial crops such as cotton, jute, sugarcane under National Food Security Mission (NFSNM-Commercial crops) and profitable horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

(b) to (f): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), a sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), in the Original Green Revolution States viz; Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 to divert the area of rice crop to alternative crops such as pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc. The CDP provides support to the farmers for four major components viz., (i) alternate crop demonstrations, (ii) farm mechanization and value addition, (iii) site specific activities and (iv) contingency for awareness, training, implementation, monitoring, etc.

Apart from implementing CDP, the state governments are also encouraging farmers to shift from Rice-Wheat-based crop system through various interventions viz, in Punjab various sustainable farming practices like promoting / encouraging Millets cultivation, ensuring supply of quality planting material of various fruits, vegetables etc., establishment of center of excellence for Pear, Peach, Guava, Citrus are being implemented and Haryana, is implementing “Mera Pani Meri Virasat” scheme from the year 2020 to solve the problem of declining groundwater by diversifying the paddy crop to alternate high-value crops.
