

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1455**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31/07/2026

**SPECIAL SCHEME TO PROMOTE HORTICULTURAL CROPS IN BIHAR**

1455. DR. DHARMSHILA GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government is operating any special scheme to promote the production, processing, and marketing of makhana, litchi, maize and other horticultural crops in Bihar;
- (b) the number of farmers benefited from the scheme during the last three years;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up a makhana research and value-addition center in the Darbhanga and Mithilanchal regions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) has been implemented since 2014–15 across the country including Bihar, to promote the holistic growth of the horticulture sector. The scheme covers fruits (including litchi), vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, and plantation crops. Under the scheme, an additional area of 4,632 hectares has been brought under horticulture crops including litchi, during the period from 2014–15 to 2025–26 in Bihar. Under MIDH, 35,923 farmers were benefitted during the last three years.

National Horticulture Board (NHB) supports commercial horticulture, by providing back-ended subsidy for production and post-harvest infrastructure such as pack houses, ripening chambers, refrigerated vans, pre-cooling units and primary processing facilities. During the last three years, 2 projects were supported in Bihar under the scheme.

The production of maize is promoted through National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM- coarse cereals). Under the scheme, assistance is provided for demonstration on crop production and protection technologies, distribution of certified seeds, integrated nutrient and pest management measures and capacity building of farmers. Under the scheme, 4,70,277 farmers were benefitted in Bihar in last three years.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)–National Research Centre (NRC) on Litchi, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, undertakes basic, strategic and applied research on litchi and facilitates the transfer of technologies to farmers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. Through its extension and technology dissemination programmes, 6,193 farmers in Bihar were benefitted during the last three years.

ICAR–National Research Centre for Makhana (ICAR-NRCM), Darbhanga is engaged in research, technology development, capacity building and extension for enhancing the production, productivity, processing, value addition and marketing of Makhana. Through the centre, 3,000 farmers were benefitted during the last three years in Bihar.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) is implemented to provide medium and long-term debt financing for the development of post-harvest management infrastructure and other viable community farming assets. In Bihar, 2,720 projects related to post-harvest management infrastructure and other agricultural assets have been sanctioned under the AIF Scheme. Under AIF, 2,609 beneficiaries were supported during the last three years.

The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) under Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that focuses on the growth and formalisation of micro food processing units across the country including Bihar. Under the scheme, 291 micro food processing units were supported during the last three years in Bihar.

The Central Sector Scheme for Development of Makhana, with an outlay of ₹476.03 crore was launched in 2025–26 with the objective of promoting the production, processing, value addition and marketing of the makhana sector. The scheme is being implemented by the National Makhana Board, Bihar, through the State Governments, including the Government of Bihar. Financial assistance under the scheme is provided based on the Annual Action Plan (AAP) submitted by the respective State Governments. Under the State Government Scheme and the Central Sector Scheme for Development of Makhana, a total of 19,135 farmers in Bihar have benefited during the last three years.

(c) & (d): ICAR–NRC for Makhana, Darbhanga serves as the national research centre with processing and incubation facilities. Additionally, the Advanced Makhana Research and Development Centre at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, along with the Regional Research Stations at Jhanjharpur and Biraul, is undertaking research, development and capacity-building activities on makhana.

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