

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 667
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24/07/2026

PROMOTION OF HIGH DENSITY PLANTATION UNDER MIDH IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

667: SHRI CHOWDRY MOHAMMAD RAMZAN:

Will the MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of traditional apple and walnut orchards converted into high-density plantations in Jammu and Kashmir under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- (b) the present rate of Government subsidy and the quantum of bank finance available to orchardists for establishing high-density orchards; and
- (c) the measures taken to ensure the availability of elite rootstocks and to protect apple growers from recurring losses due to unseasonal dry spells and climate change?

ANSWER

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

(a): Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), financial assistance is provided for establishment of high-density plantations of apple and walnut through new area expansion as well as for rejuvenation of old and senile orchards. In addition, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is implementing schemes such as the High-Density Plantation Scheme (HDP), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) to promote conversion of traditional orchards into high-density plantations. Under these schemes, approximately 300 hectares of traditional apple and walnut orchards have been converted into high-density plantations, while about 909.13 hectares have been brought under new high-density plantations during the last five years. Separate data regarding conversion of traditional walnut orchards are not maintained under MIDH.

(b): Under MIDH, NHB and the Modified High Density Plantation Scheme of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, financial assistance is provided for establishment of high-density orchards. Institutional finance, wherever applicable, is available based on the project cost and appraisal by the concerned lending institution. The details are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Rate of Government Subsidy	Quantum of bank finance available
1.	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (NHM/HMNEH)	40% of the maximum eligible project cost in general area & 50% of project cost for North East and Himalayan States/UTs, Scheduled Areas and UTs of A & N Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, J&K and Ladakh.	The remaining project cost after the subsidy amount may be met by the beneficiary through own resources and/or institutional finance, subject to appraisal by the lending institution.
2.	National Horticulture Board (NHB)	40% of the maximum eligible project cost in general area & 50% of project cost for North East and Himalayan States/UTs, Scheduled Areas and UTs of A & N Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, J&K and Ladakh.	NHB assistance is credit-linked. The project should be financed through institutional credit, with the term loan not being less than the admissible subsidy.
3.	Modified High Density Plantation Scheme (State level scheme)	50% as per crop wise per/ha budget defined in the scheme.	Eligible beneficiaries may avail institutional finance up to 80% of the project cost, subject to the lending norms of the concerned financial institution

(c): To enhance the availability of elite rootstocks and to improve the resilience of apple orchards against recurring losses due to unseasonal dry spells and climate change, the Government has taken the following measures:

- Financial assistance is provided under various Government schemes, including MIDH, for the establishment of large nurseries, elite disease-free nurseries and rootstock banks in the public and private sectors to ensure the availability of quality planting material.
- Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) facilities have been established for imported high-value horticulture planting material, including apple and walnut, in Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir to facilitate the supply of genuine and quality planting material.
- The Government promotes the adoption of improved and elite dwarf rootstocks for high-density plantations, which help in achieving early bearing, higher productivity and better adaptation to changing climatic conditions.
- Financial assistance is provided under various Government schemes for the creation of water harvesting structures, farm ponds, bore wells, drip irrigation systems and other micro-irrigation infrastructure to mitigate the impact of unseasonal dry spells and improve water-use efficiency.
- Financial assistance is also provided for installation of anti-hail nets and promotion of mulching practices to protect orchards from adverse weather events and conserve soil moisture.
- In addition, the ICAR–Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (ICAR-CITH), Srinagar, is undertaking research on the production and multiplication of elite rootstocks, evaluation of climate-resilient rootstocks, standardization of propagation techniques and production of disease-free planting material to enhance the productivity and sustainability of apple orchards.
