

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 680**  
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2026

**PLAN TO DEVELOP EASTERN INDIA AS AN EXPORT-ORIENTED  
MANUFACTURING HUB**

680. SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing a new policy to develop Eastern India as an export-oriented manufacturing hub;
- (b) whether special handholding is being provided for export promotion to the MSME sector based on silk, fox nuts, honey and Mithila painting in Bihar; and
- (c) if so, the details of the achievements thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) The Government is implementing various initiatives to promote exports and strengthen the export ecosystem across the country, including in the States of Eastern India. Some of the initiatives, among others, include:

(i) Export Promotion Mission (EPM): Approved by the Government with an outlay of Rs. 25,060 crore for the period FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31 to strengthen India's export ecosystem, particularly for MSMEs, first-time exporters and labour-intensive sectors.

(ii) Districts as Export Hubs (DEH): Under the Districts as Export Hubs initiative, products and services with export potential are identified at the district level and District Export Action Plans are prepared in coordination with the respective State Governments. The initiative seeks to strengthen local value chains by addressing critical gaps relating to infrastructure, logistics, standardization, branding, market access and capacity building, while enabling artisans, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and first-time exporters to participate more effectively in international trade.

(iii) Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE), providing ₹20,000 crore in credit guarantee cover, and enhanced ECGC cover (up to ₹80 crore) for MSME exporters.

(b) & (c) Export promotion support is extended through various initiatives of the Department of Commerce and its organizations to eligible exporters across the country, including MSMEs.

APEDA, in particular, has undertaken the following key measures for the export promotion of Makhana (fox nuts) primarily produced in Bihar as under:

- (i) Facilitated export of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana enhancing its presence in global markets such as USA, Canada, and New Zealand, China and UAE
- (ii) APEDA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Bihar, with an aim to facilitate the export promotion of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana in international markets.
- (iii) More than 100 Capacity building and awareness programmes have been organized from FY 2025-26 till date for farmers, FPOs, and processors on export standards across major Makhana-producing hubs
- (iv) Promotion of Bihar's agri-products at major international trade fairs such as Gulfood, Aahaar, and Indusfood and participation in International Buyer-Seller Meets.
- (v) Released Study on "Strategies to Boost India's Makhana Exports" in association with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to explore the potential of India's makhana exports and develop a strategic action plan to position India as a global leader for its exports

Under the Districts as Export Hubs initiative, District Export Action Plans prepared in coordination with the State Governments further facilitate identification and promotion of products with export potential, including through capacity building, branding, market access and export facilitation.

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