

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2796
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018

BETEL CULTIVATION

2796. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the betel farmers are not getting the benefit of the crop insurance scheme as the cultivation of betel has not been accorded the status of agriculture and if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has received proposals from various stakeholders regarding the award of agriculture status to betel cultivation and if so, the Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether lakhs of people of the betel growers community are leading pitiable life as a result thereof, if so, the details and the Government's reaction thereto with special reference to Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka;
- (d) whether betel cultivation has also not been included in the activities of agriculture science centres situated in those States where betel cultivation is undertaken on a large scale; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a): All food, oilseed and commercial/ horticultural crops are covered under crop insurance schemes of the Government viz. yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), however, it is for the States to decide which crops and areas to notify under the schemes.

Betel vine is a perennial horticultural creeper and may be covered under RWBCIS as has been notified by the States of Karnataka and West Bengal. Thus since, the benefit of crop insurance is available to betel cultivation in some States, the issue of grant of agriculture status to betel cultivation for purpose of crop insurance does not arise.

(b) to (e): Government has received representation from stakeholders in Bihar. Agriculture being a State subject, the matter has been forwarded to the State Government for appropriate action. Representations have also been received from Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka stating that the betel cultivation and trade are incurring losses due to continuous drought leading to pitiable life of the cultivators. Development programmes for promotion of betel vine are being implemented by the Central as well as concerned State Governments, especially in the areas where the betel vine cultivation is predominant. Betel vine being a horticultural crop, assistance for its development can be had under State Horticulture Missions (SHMs) of concerned States through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Further, the natural calamity relief measures are also provided to the betel vine growers as per the existing rates fixed by the Government from time to time.
