

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 993

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2022

OIL PALM GROWERS

993. SHRI PRAJWAL REVANNA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems and hardships faced by the oil palm growers in the State of Karnataka due to recent policy decisions of the Government such as zero per cent import duty of oil palms due to which the local farmers are badly affected as they cannot compete with corporate forest plantations of Malaysia, Indonesia and at the same time price of fertilizer and labour cost had doubled;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of disparity in price fixation of Rs.1200 per tonne of oil palms produced in the State of Karnataka compared to neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for fair and remunerative price for the oil palm producers along with action taken to promote oil production and technical guidance to the oil palm producers in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): The Government of India has launched National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) Scheme from 2021-22. To insulate the oil palm growing farmers from the fluctuations of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) prices, which are linked to the international crude palm oil prices, the Government of India has introduced the concept of a Viability Price of FFBs, which is assured return to the farmers.

This Viability Price is assured to the farmers through a mechanism of Viability Gap Funding in which the farmers are ensured payment of Viability Price.

Under NMEO-OP, the Government of India has introduced various interventions such as subsidy for planting material, maintenance cost, inter-cropping, assistance on mechanization of bore well, drip irrigation, pump set, construction of water harvesting structure, vermicompost and replanting in old garden, etc.

In addition to above interventions, the Government of Karnataka is providing assistance for harvesting FFBs of tall Oil Palm from the state budget. The technical guidance to the farmers and officers is provided by Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research and Scientists of Agriculture/Horticulture Universities.
