

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2634**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**PROBLEMS OF BETEL FARMERS**

2634. DR. M. P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI :

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems faced by betel farmers in the State of Kerala with issues related to low prices for betel leaves and unexpected changes in climatic conditions;
- (b) whether the Government has any support programmes or initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of betel farmers in the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to address current challenges by implementing a price stabilization system or introducing alternative farming methods;
- and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a): No such information has been received in the Ministry.

(b) & (c): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented for the holistic development of horticulture in the country. Under MIDH, assistance is provided for area expansion, promotion of Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Nutrient Management and organic farming, post-harvest management, development of markets etc. in respect of various horticultural crops including betel leaf.

Under MIDH, the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) provides financial assistance to State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes to produce good quality nucleus planting materials of betelvine for further multiplication and distribution to the farmers.

Apart from the above, assistance is also provided for promotion of cultivation of betel leaves under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme.

(d) & (e): Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

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