

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-506
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PRODUCTION OF SAFFRON

506. SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI:

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

- (a) whether the production of saffron has declined by 75% since the inception of the National Saffron Mission and if so, the details of the total decline in saffron production in the last one year;
- (b) whether the well sprinklers sanctioned under the National Saffron Mission have been non-functional since the inception of the initiative, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is true that industrial establishments near saffron fields have led to adverse effects on saffron flowers due to factors such as cement dust;
- (d) if so, the details of steps that have been taken by the Government to regulate and monitor industrial activities near saffron cultivation areas to prevent negative impacts on public health and ecology; and
- (e) whether the Government has constituted a high-level Committee to look into the declining condition of Saffron production and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

- (a) As per the estimates provided by the Office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue), UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the production of saffron in Jammu and Kashmir has decreased from 8.0 MT in 2010-11 to 2.6 MT in 2023-24 (provisional), resulting in an overall decline in production by about 67.5% over the period. However, during the last one year from 2022-23 to 2023-24, the saffron production has marginally increased by 4%.

(b) As per the information received from the Planning and Agriculture Production Department of UT of J&K, out of the 128 deep bore-wells sanctioned under the Mission, 123 have been constructed by the Horticulture Department and handed over to the Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir for their harnessing and further linkage with the Sprinkler irrigation Systems. The Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir has successfully connected 73 deep bore wells with the Sprinkler Irrigation Systems having a command of 2187.08 hectares. However, the irrigation facilities are not being utilized fully as the User Groups for management and upkeep of these bore wells have not been created as per the Mission Guidelines and have not been handed over to the farmer user groups.

(c) & (d) As per the information received from the Planning, Agriculture Production Department of UT of J&K, there has been no report of adverse effect on saffron flowers due to factors such as cement dust from any industrial establishments. The Agriculture Production Department along with the revenue authorities, UT of J&K are implementing the Saffron Act, Saffron rules and other revenue laws which safeguards the saffron land from being diverted for any other purposes.

(e) No high-level committee has been constituted by the Govt. of India to look into the declining condition of Saffron production. However, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. Of India has requested the UT Administration of J &K to conduct a detailed review of all the activities taken up under the National Saffron Mission in J&K to ensure the effective utilization of infrastructure and facilities created under the National Saffron Mission for the overall development of Saffron sector in Jammu & Kashmir.
