

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2444
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH MARCH, 2021

BEEKEEPING AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

2444. SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to increase honey production, bee population, conservation of bee biodiversity, scientific beekeeping and building related advantages for agricultural productivity and doubling farmers' income;
- (b) whether the National Honey Mission has managed to achieve the simple goal of training people in beekeeping, providing bee boxes with hives, giving technical support till full establishment, developing cluster facilities of honey extraction and processing infrastructure and creating marketing facilities for the sale of honey products and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of infrastructure pools established by the National Honey Mission of KVIC across the country, where entrepreneurs can avail facilities for honey extraction, processing, bottling, ancillary product development and knowledge exchange?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a): The following steps have been taken by Government to promote scientific beekeeping, increasing honey production, bee colonies, farmers' income, agricultural productivity, and other related advantages:
- i. Government of India is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for overall development of horticulture in the country. Under MIDH, among others, to promote beekeeping in the country, a component of "Pollination support through Beekeeping" has been included;
 - ii. DAC&FW reconstituted National Bee Board (NBB) in 2006 to promote scientific beekeeping in the country. NBB has also been designated as National Level Agency (NLA) for implementation of various activities/components for development of scientific beekeeping under MIDH;

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iii. Beekeeping is also being promoted under Rashtriya Krishi VikasYojana (RKVY), DAC&FW under which Beekeeping related projects are also considered;

iv. ICAR- All India Coordinated Research Project on Honey bees and Pollinators (AICRP-HB&P) conducts basic and applied research on various aspects of honey bees and other pollinators;

v. Keeping in view the importance of Apiculture/Beekeeping, Govt. of India also approved a Central Sector Scheme entitled “National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)” in 2018-19 for which Rs. 500.00 crores have been allotted for 3 Years (2020-21 to 2022-23) under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Announcement;

vi. Ministries of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Rural Development promote apiculture through Cluster Development Scheme (SFURTI) and through Mahila Kisans (MKs) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), respectively;

vii. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also implementing two scheme: (a) Central Sector Umbrella Scheme- “PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA” (PMKSY); and (b) Centrally Sponsored- “PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises” (PMFME). Under these schemes Honey processing is one of the important components for financial assistance.

(b): Yes, Sir.

National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) is functioning with the objective for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in the country to achieve the goal of “**Sweet Revolution**”. NBHM has three Mini Missions under which thrust is given for holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation, providing livelihood support to farm and non-farm households, to enhance agriculture/ horticulture production, developing infrastructural facilities, including setting up of Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre (IBDC)s /CoE, honey testing labs, bee disease diagnostic labs, custom hiring centres, Api-therapy centres, nucleus stock, bee breeders, distribution of specialized beekeeping equipment. for production. of high value products, viz. Royal Jelly, Bee Venom, Comb Honey, Bee Pollen, etc., setting up of Beekeeping Equipment Manufacturing Units, etc. and empowerment of women through Beekeeping, HRD/ capacity building, awareness programmes, etc. under Mini Mission-I, post-harvest management of beekeeping/ beehive products, including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc. under Mini Mission-II and Research & Technology generation in beekeeping under Mini Mission-III. There is no provision for providing bee boxes and bee colonies under NBHM. However, under MIDH, assistance is made available for bee colonies, beehives & beekeeping equipments.

(c): KVIC, Ministry of MSME is implementing a cluster development scheme since 2014-15 namely SFURTI, under which Honey related clusters are considered. The scheme includes support to traditional beekeepers by developing Common Facility Centers, procurement of new machineries, distribution of bee boxes and tool kits, training, exposure visits, brand development etc. So far 23 such clusters have been approved under the scheme with a grant of about Rs. 47.00 crores which will benefit about 9645 beekeepers. 3 of these clusters have become functional so far. Further, MSME accorded in-principle approval for ‘Honey Mission programme’ which has been implemented by KVIC in the country from 2017-18. Under this programme 1,38,209 Bee colonies have been distributed to 13,940 of beneficiaries up to 2019-20.