

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2454**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021

**FARMING IN DARBHANGA**

2454. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether most of the area of Darbhanga, Bihar comprises of agriculture land;
- (b) whether farmers there produce their crops without any training;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up horticulture teaching and training institute in Darbhanga;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The reporting area of Darbhanga is 2,54,077 hectare out of which agricultural land is 198415 hectare, which is 75.40% of the total reporting area.

(b) to (e): Agriculture is a state subject and the State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector in their respective States. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme is under implementation in 691 districts of 28 States & 5 UTs of the country including Darbhanga district of Bihar. The extension activities under ATMA include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Melas, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools, etc. Also, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is implemented w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits,

vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. All States/ UTs are covered under MIDH. Under HRD component of MIDH, awareness programmes, farmers training, exposure visit, etc. are being provided to aware farmers about the latest technologies being used in horticulture. Farmers are also made aware of the processing facilities/mega food parks nearby and processable varieties of horticulture crops.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 722 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) at the district level in the country mandated with Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development. Of these, a total 44 KVKs are based in the State of Bihar. KVKs organize demonstrations, training programs and skill development programs for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youth. The network of KVKs promote various modern agricultural technologies among farmers through demonstrations, training programs and awareness.

In Darbhanga, Bihar, during 2019-20, 6 on farm trials (OFTs) for assessing technologies and 6 front line demonstrations (FLD) showcasing potentials on improved varieties, modern technologies and practices were conducted on farmers' field to create awareness among farmers. To update the knowledge and skills on modern agricultural technologies, training courses on various technologies were organized benefitting as many as 4611 farmers and farm women. 27913 farmers participated in various extension activities. In addition, 14.60 tons of seeds, 8690 planting materials were produced and distributed among farmers. Further, 167 soil, water, plant, manures samples were tested, and 3138 Mobile agro- advisory were provided to farmers. Besides, KVKs, trainings are also provided by the state agricultural agencies.

No proposal is pending in the ICAR, Government of India for setting up of Horticultural Teaching and training Institute in Darbhanga. Besides 44 KVKs, there are a total 13 agricultural institutions including a Central Agricultural University, 3 ICAR Institutes, 1 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), 2 Agricultural Veterinary Universities and 6 Research Centers located in the state of Bihar. These institutions together with the KVKs are effectively catering the agricultural technology development needs of the state including Darbhanga.

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