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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1348 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27^{Th} JULY, 2021

PROMOTING TO NATURAL FARMING

1348. DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is promoting natural farming as chemicals-free farming including the State-wise details of States covered under natural farming;
- (b) whether the Government has started a new programme for authentication of default organic areas like remote areas, hilly areas and island which will save the time required for modification including the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to provide assistance to the individual farmers for organic authentication which is not a part of existing organic scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details of the norms for receiving the assistance?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government has been implementing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2020-21 for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices. The scheme mainly emphasizes on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching; use of cow dung-urine formulations; plant-based preparations and time to time working of soil for aeration. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

As of now, an area of 4.09 lakh ha is covered in 8 states and Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released. The State –wise details of area covered and funds released under BPKP is given at **Annexure - I.**

Government has initiated Large Area Certification (LAC) programme since 2020-21 to certify large tradional/default organic areas such as hills, islands, tribal or desert belt with no past history of GMO and agro chemical uses. Entire certification process gets completed within 3-6 months time. This reduces the conversion period from 2-3 years to few months and allows farmers for marketing of their produce at premium prices. Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of Island under the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with 14,491 ha cultivable area is the first Large Contiguous Area declared as certified organic. Government of India have already sanctioned and released Rs 11.48 lakh to Union Territory of Ladakh for LAC.

(c) & (d): Government has initiated programme to provide financial assistance to individual farmers with 8.0 or more hectare land @ 2700/ha for 3 years for Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification through Regional Council or National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) certification.

The State -wise details of funds released under BPKP

SI. No.	States	Area in Ha	Amount released (Rs in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100000	750.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	85000	1352.52
3.	Kerala	84000	1336.60
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12000	286.42
5	Jharkhand	3400	54.10
6.	Odisha	24000	381.89
7.	Madhya Pradesh	99000	787.64
8.	Tamil Nadu	2000	31.82
Total	•	409400	4980.99
