

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3650
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH AUGUST, 2021

MAKHANA CULTIVATION

3650. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether makhana is the major crop of Mithila and through proper development and trading (branding and marketing) of makhana, the problem of poverty and migration of people from this area can be solved;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to restore national status to Makhana Research Centre located in Darbhanga for proper development and research;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same will be achieved;
- (d) whether 80 to 90 per cent of the total production of makhana in the country is produced in Mithila; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct research on makhana which is full of nutrients and medicinal properties?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): Makhana is a major crop of Mithila region in Bihar. In order to promote its trading (branding and marketing), the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely "PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)" for providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of micro food processing enterprises under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The scheme is operational for the period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore. To upgrade existing units or to set up new micro units for individuals is provided through a credit linked grant @35% with maximum grant of Rs. 10 lakhs. The scheme also provides support to food processing units of SHGs/FPOs/Cooperatives for Infrastructure, Marketing, Branding and Capacity Building. Makhana is considered as major crop under ODOP (One District One Product) of 6 districts viz. Araria, Darbhanga, Katihar, Madhubani, Saharsa and Supaul for the benefit of farmers. The scheme envisages support for ODOP products to new units whether individuals or groups. Under the scheme, support for common

infrastructure, R&D and marketing & branding activities is available to ODOP products. Support for marketing and branding is envisaged for ODOP products @ 50% of the total expenditure to groups of FPOs/SHGs/Cooperatives or micro food processing enterprises at district, regional or state level. Mithila including Semanchal is currently contributing for 80-90% of makhana production.

Regional Centre of ICAR – RCER at Darbhanga is involved in carrying out research on makhana including makhana / aquaculture based farming system. Further, ICAR is planning to strengthen the research activities through development of high yielding varieties, mechanisation of makhana cultivation and post harvesting processing techniques.
