

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1030
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2022

BETEL LEAF RESEARCH CENTRES

1030. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to establish Betel Leaf Research Centres across the country to promote and support the betel leaf farming in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal has sent a proposal to setup the National Centre of Betel Leaf Research and Training in West Bengal;
- (c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to form an expert Committee to strengthen betel leaf cultivation in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is no National Training and Research Centre for betel leaf farming in the country;
- (f) if so, the Government's reaction thereto including the steps taken by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (g) the other measures taken by the Government to provide training and support for the betel leaf growers in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): At present, there is no proposal to establish Betel Leaf Research Centres across the country. No such proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal in this regard.

ICAR Institutes such as ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru and the ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Betel vine through its eight centers in different states organize training for betel leaf farming in the country on regular basis.

There is no proposal to form an expert Committee to strengthen betel leaf cultivation in the country.

Some of the other measures taken by the Government to provide training and support for the betel leaf growers in the country are as follows:

- (i)** Identification of improved varieties by the Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR): During 2017 to 2021, an improved variety named 'Sawrna Kapoori' and four other improved hybrids with higher productivity and quality have been identified;
- (ii)** Supply of planting materials: The ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru and the centres of ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Betel vine (AICRP on MAP & B) multiplied and supplied quality plants to betel vine growers;
- (iii)** Standardization of location specific disease management techniques and other package of practices for betel leaf cultivation;
- (iv)** The ICAR Institutes and the Centres of AICRP on MAP & B were involved in transfer of technologies on betel leaf cultivation on regular basis;
- (v)** Facilitating grant of Geographical Indicator (GI) status to *Magahi Paan* for marketing support and better price realization;
- (vi)** Formation of Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) for better cultivation practices and marketing support to stakeholders.
