

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2162
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2022

ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING

2162. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee on the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently submitted its report on various aspects of zero budget natural farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this Committee has raised concerns on the large scale switch to zero-budget natural farming in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government intend to take any action on the recommendations of this expert committee on zero-budget natural farming; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The committee has suggested the following:

- i. Based on the limited available data, information collected and interaction with stakeholders from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the Committee observed for considering natural farming as one of the options for promoting in the rainfed and hilly areas initially;
- ii. The Committee also observed for long-term multi-location study on natural farming in different environments;
- iii. Integrated production systems encompassing the natural farming and agro-ecological approaches are recommended by the Committee considering the growing population and limitation in terms of natural resources.

(d) & (e): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated a study on "Evaluation and validation of Natural Farming Practices in different Agro-ecologies" at 20 locations covering 16 States.
