

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3172
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd MARCH, 2022

SHIFT TOWARDS ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING

3172: SHRI T.R BAALU:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the shift towards Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) could help in substantially lower input costs and increase yields and quality of produce along with long term restoration of soil health; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government to motivate farmers to adopt ZBNF which is a transition away from chemical-based inputs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (b): Evidences from implementation of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) from various parts of the country indicates that shift towards ZBNF helps in substantially lowering the cost. Being a chemical free system based on natural nutrient cycling, it ensures safe food and soil health restoration.

Government is promoting Natural Farming through Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming. The scheme mainly emphasises 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 and other plant-based preparations. 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. Until now, under natural farming an area of 4.09 lakh ha area has been covered and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released to 8 States across the country. The State –wise details of funds released and area under BPKP is given at **Annexure – I**.

Annexure- I**The State –wise details of funds released and area covered under Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhthi (BPKP)**

Sl. No.	States	Released date	Area in Ha	Amount released (Rs in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.09.20	100000	750.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	09.12.20	85000	1352.52
3.	Kerala	30.09.20	84000	1336.60
4.	Himachal Pradesh	24.12.20	12000	286.42
5	Jharkhand	02.12.20	3400	54.10
6.	Odisha	02.02.21	24000	381.89
7.	Madhya Pradesh	16.02.21	99000	787.64
8.	Tamil Nadu	16.02.21	2000	31.82
Total			409400	4980.99
