

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 119
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH JULY, 2024

WELFARE OF PALM OIL FARMERS

*119. SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details regarding the total number of oil palm farmers and hectares of land utilised for its cultivation in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years especially in Eluru district, year and district wise;
- (b) whether the Government has considered any welfare projects/initiatives taking into account the numerous issues faced by oil palm farmers such as sudden price drops, rugose whitefly and competition from imported oil products of Malaysia and Indonesia, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding the total funds allocated and utilized under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm for welfare and overall development of oil palm farmers in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise, especially in Eluru district; and
- (d) whether the Government has considered introducing a Minimum Guarantee Price (MGP) for the sale of per tone Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB), if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 FOR 30TH JULY, 2024 REGARDING “WELFARE OF PALM OIL FARMERS”

(a): The details of year & district wise Oil Palm Area covered along with the total number of Oil Palm Farmers in Andhra Pradesh as provided by the state government during last five years with data of Eluru district are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

(b): Yes Sir. The National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) has been launched during the year 2021 with the aim to augment the availability of edible oil in the country by harnessing area expansion, increasing crude palm oil production with the aim to reduce the import burden. The salient features of NMEO-OP include assistance to farmers for planting material, inputs for intercropping and maintenance up to gestation period of 4 years, replanting of old plantation and few other inputs such as machineries and irrigation. Besides, industries are provided support for setting up of seed gardens, nurseries, custom hiring centers. North Eastern States (NES) are also supported for setting up of oil palm processing mills.

Besides, to ensure remunerative prices of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) to farmers, a system of declaring Formula Price (FP) every month (by states concerned) are also followed. Industries linked with a particular area has to mandatorily procure the FFBs from the farmers on declared Formula Price. Further, to mitigate the price risk of farmers due to sudden falling of international prices, a system of declaring Viability Price (VP) by the central Government is also followed and the Viability Gap Payment (VGP) is provided to the farmers in case the Formula Price drops below the Viability Price of the particular year. This benefit of Viability Gap Payment is available to oil palm farmers in 13 oil palm growing states which have signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Government of India. However, this benefit is not available to farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana since, they have not yet signed the MOU. Repeated requests have been made to both the state governments in this regard. Since Formula Price (FP), Viability Price (VP) and Viability Gap Payment (VGP) already exist in the National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to provide price security to oil palm farmers, hence the provision of any kind of minimum guarantee price is not under consideration.

In order to address the incidence of Rugose Spiraling Whitefly in oil palm fields, the state government of Andhra Pradesh alongwith India Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (ICAR-IIOPR), Pedavegi and the Dr.Y.S.R Horticultural University have conducted field visits at village level, given wide publicity on the control of pest and organized training programmes on easy mass multiplication of the biocontrol agent, *Isaria fumosorosea* fungus (strain of National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru) by the farmers at field level. Further, farmers are also being supported by the State Government for establishment of Bio lab for production of bioagents for in turn supply to the co-farmers. In addition, the Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR), Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh is implementing Research and Development (R&D) projects on various aspects of Oil Palm including control of rugose whitefly.

(c): The total funds allocated and utilized with respect to the state of Andhra Pradesh under NMEO-OP for the past three years is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Financial (Rs. In lakh)	
		Allocation	Achievement*
1	2021-22	8144.92	4189.77
2	2022-23	10414.91	6389.58
3	2023-24	15167.61	8881.67

* The entire amount allocated by the central government is made available to the state government in installments. Based on the efficient utilization of the initial installments by the state government, further installments are released. Hence the achievement figures are less than allocation.

The year & district wise details of financial allocation and expenditure incurred as provided by the state government are enclosed at **Annexure-II**.

(d): Already incorporated in part (b).

Annexure-I

Year & district wise Oil Palm Area Covered (in Ha) and Farmers benefited (in Nos) in Andhra Pradesh State

Sl. No.	District	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Phy Ach (in Ha)	Farmers (in Nos)	Phy Ach (in Ha)	Farmers (in Nos)	Phy Ach (in Ha)	Farmers (in Nos)	Phy Ach (in Ha)	Farmers (in Nos)	Phy Ach (in Ha)	Farmers (in Nos)
1	Srikakulam	3530	2594	3541	2640	3589	2766	3717	2898	3881	3042
2	PVP Manyam	6611	3282	7017	3729	7628	4325	8443	5019	9486	5802
3	Vizianagaram	9711	5196	9775	5304	9930	5413	10086	5688	10485	5947
4	Visakhapatnam	101	45	104	45	104	45	104	50	124	57
5	Alluri Sita Ramaraju	3321	2128	3412	2247	3565	2372	3726	2473	4283	2968
6	Anakapalli	8486	6769	8600	7040	8854	7658	9433	8226	10328	9189
7	Kakinada	13362	11301	13892	12086	14558	13781	15996	15470	18134	18188
8	East Godavari	23291	15289	23678	15660	24070	17829	26355	20750	29408	23939
9	Konaseema	1098	1156	1101	1162	1106	1183	1121	1350	1231	1532
10	Eluru*							106558	81010	116073	90430
11	West Godavari	92805	66932	97431	72421	103439	77033	1943	1336	2105	1484
12	NTR	9997	4663	10089	4751	10234	4918	10509	5166	11519	5773
13	Krishna	4141	2566	4455	2853	4820	3114	5151	3500	5811	4198
14	S PS R Nellore	2543	807	2543	807	2543	812	2555	890	3035	1106
15	Tirupati	325	148	325	148	325	148	325	178	400	227
16	Chittoor	46	19	46	19	46	19	46	25	70	49
17	Anantapuram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Guntur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Palnadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Bapatla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11
21	Kurnool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
22	Annamayya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	26
23	Nandyal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	YSR Kadapa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	47
	Total	179367	122895	186009	130912	194810	141416	206067	154029	226527	174017

*Eluru district was separated from West Godavari during 2022

Source: - State Government of Andhra Pradesh

Annexure-II

Year & District-wise Financial allocation and Expenditure incurred under NMEO-OP in Andhra Pradesh State
(Rs.in lakh)

Sl. No.	District	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Allotted	Expenditure	Allotted	Expenditure	Allotted	Expenditure
1	Srikakulam	161.75	91.38	251.38	66.13	306.93	77.61
2	Parvathipuram Manyam	0.00	0.00	574.45	444.33	1121.09	462.11
3	Vizianagaram	589.38	299.21	305.49	148.53	504.17	165.04
4	Visakhapatnam	309.21	165.83	90.76	1.55	67.14	7.09
5	Alluri Sitharama Raju	0.00	0.00	341.70	63.66	209.35	181.71
6	Anakapalli	0.00	0.00	448.44	234.67	919.10	367.15
7	Kakinada	0.00	0.00	918.90	617.99	1493.70	878.21
8	East Godavari	1414.39	742.78	997.63	1235.54	2605.29	1422.74
9	Konaseema	0.00	0.00	208.64	40.47	229.96	52.17
10	Eluru*	3570.92	2072.79	2840.58	2639.18	5476.35	3808.92
11	West Godavari			1314.84	134.48	225.32	103.33
12	NTR	0.00	0.00	339.03	164.27	704.64	387.63
13	Krishna	1265.95	593.60	435.97	215.19	528.15	270.78
14	Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore	28.48	4.32	204.02	63.23	475.66	166.95
15	Tirupati	0.00	0.00	83.11	13.34	78.73	24.80
16	Chittoor	29.99	3.57	44.21	3.67	72.00	8.50
17	Anantapuram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Guntur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Palnadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Bapatla	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.03
21	Kurnool	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86
22	Annamayya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.05
23	Nandyal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	YSR Kadapa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.23
	Head office	774.85	216.24	1015.76	303.35	150.03	441.77
	Total	8144.92	4189.72	10414.91	6389.57	15167.61	8881.67

*Eluru district was separated from West Godavari during 2022

Source: - State Government of Andhra Pradesh
