

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4092
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2025

CHALLENGES IN TRANSITION TO NATURAL FARMING

4092. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the details of the concrete measures being taken to address the practical challenges faced by farmers during the transition to natural farming;
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to address yield fluctuations that farmers often face in the first few years of transitioning from chemical-based to natural farming;
- (c) whether there are any provisions for compensating farmers for income loss or production instability during this period, if so, details thereof
- (d) whether many small and marginal farmers lack access to essential resources like livestock for preparing bio-inputs, if so, the manner in which the Ministry ensure inclusivity for these farmers within NMNF's framework; and
- (e) the details of the scalable solutions being developed for regions where access to indigenous livestock or raw materials for Jeevamrut is limited?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): To ease the transition to natural farming, National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) envisages comprehensive measures which include awareness & demonstration programs, training, continuous hand holding and financial support to farmers. NMNF also envisages certification and market linkages for naturally grown chemical free produce, to support farmer incomes.

Under the scheme, enrolled farmers are encouraged to initiate natural farming in small landholding. Training Institutions like Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Agricultural Universities, Local Natural Farming Institutions, etc. provide training on natural farming package of practices, preparation of natural farming inputs, soil health management practices etc. at natural farming Model Demonstration Farms in farmers' fields. Farmer Master Trainers associated with the training institutions are to support the clusters in all the Natural Farming package of practices and preparation of on farm inputs. The scheme envisages deployment of two Community Resource Persons/ Krishi Sakhis in each natural farming cluster to handhold the farmers and for community awareness.

For the trained farmers, output based incentive of ₹4000 per acre per farmer per year up to 2 years is provided in the scheme for practicing NF package of practices. Each farmer shall be eligible for support under NMNF up to a maximum area of one acre.

(d) & (e): Under NMNF, there is provision for 10,000 need-based Bio-input Resource Centres for local availability of natural farming inputs for farmers to reduce their dependence on external markets for purchasing of inputs. These BRCs can be operated by practicing NF farmers, FPOs, SHG, PACS/ Cooperatives, local rural entrepreneurs, KVKs, etc. with Goshalas at Gram Panchayat or any other agency identified by the State. Through convergence with concerned Departments such as Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, scalable solutions for widespread availability of natural farming inputs such as Jeevamrut, etc. are envisaged.
