

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5554

ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2025

INDIA-SRI LANKA CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

5554. DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Indian High Commissioner met with the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation of Sri Lanka to discuss bilateral opportunities in boosting farm productivity;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to modernize farm productivity, incomes for farmers and technological transfers;**
- (d) the role of the “Neighbourhood First Policy” in shaping India’s agricultural cooperation with Sri Lanka; and**
- (e) the manner in which this policy align with its goals of enhancing food security and agricultural development?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (b) The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka met Hon'ble K. D. Lalkantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation of Sri Lanka on 24 February 2025 in Colombo to discuss opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector.

(c) to (e) During the State Visit of President Anura Kumara Disanayaka to India in December 2024, both sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) to examine possibilities for the comprehensive development of the agricultural sector in Sri Lanka.

As part of the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has consistently responded to the food security and agricultural development requirements of Sri Lanka. In response to the urgent request of Sri Lanka during the economic crisis (2022) to secure urea fertilizer, Government of India provided expeditious assistance of USD 55 million under Line of Credit to Sri Lanka for procurement of urea. India has also extended grant assistance of LKR 300 million (approx. INR 12 Crore) for construction of first-of-its-kind 5000 MT temperature controlled warehouse for perishable agricultural produce in Dambulla, in the Central Province of Sri Lanka.
