

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.129
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH JULY, 2025

IMPROVING THE PRODUCTIVITY IN HORTICULTURE SECTOR

*129. DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to increase productivity in the horticulture sector in order to meet the estimated demand of fruits and vegetables by the year 2033;
- (b) if so, whether any special scheme is being implemented by the Government to take advantage of geographical features and to promote market-based development;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether horticulture-agriculture sector (fruits and vegetables) has benefitted from the Kisan Rail and Krishi Udan Yojana Schemes; and
- (e) if so, the details of the benefits accrued from the said schemes, district-wise including Baghpat Lok Sabha Constituency in Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 129 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29TH JULY, 2025.**

(a) to (c): The horticulture sector has shown a remarkable growth in the last decade wherein fruit production has increased to 1129.7 lakh metric tonnes (2023-24) from 866 lakh metric tonnes (2014-15) with 30 percent increase. During the same period, vegetable production has increased to 2072 lakh metric tonnes (2023-24) from 1694.7 lakh metric tonnes (2014-15) with 22 percent increase. The productivity of fruits has also increased from 14.17 to 15.80 metric tonnes per hectare, whereas the productivity of vegetables has increased from 17.76 to 18.40 metric tonnes per hectare during the same period. This growth indicates that the increase in production and productivity of fruits and vegetables is on track to meet predicted future demand.

Government of India is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in the country including Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh for holistic development of horticulture which includes increasing productivity using elite high yielding planting material, high density plantation, rejuvenation of old orchards, fertigation, protected cultivation and reduction of post harvest losses etc. to meet the estimated demand of fruits and vegetables.

The Government has introduced new initiatives under MIDH to leverage geographical advantage and promote market driven horticulture through setting up of 58 Centre of Excellence (CoEs), identified 55 clusters under Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (HCDP), 9 centres for Clean Plant Programme (CPP) and setting up of 4 Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) facilities.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its crop specific institutes have enhanced horticulture crop production and productivity through research on high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties, modern cultivation practices and climate-resilient technologies. It also supports farmers via training, quality planting materials, and efficient pest management.

(d) & (e): The Kisan Rail was launched on August 7, 2020 to enable movement of perishables including fruits and vegetables from production of surplus region to consumption/deficient regions in reasonable time. Since, its inception Indian Railways operated 2364 Kisan Rail Services transporting 7.9 lakh MT of perishables, across the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in 167 routes.

The Krishi Udan Scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost effective, time-bound air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from Northeast, hilly and tribal regions of the country, so that it improves their value realization. It is a convergence scheme where eight Ministries/Departments namely Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region leverage their existing schemes to strengthen the logistics for transportation of Agri-produce. By enhancing logistics and supply chains, the scheme aims to strengthen Indian agriculture and boosts farmers income.

The Krishi Udan Scheme covers 58 airports in the country, primarily focusing on 25 airports in North Eastern. Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/area. All perishable commodities are covered under Krishi Udan Scheme in the country which includes horticulture, fishery, livestock and processed products. For facilitating and incentivising movement of agri-produce by air transportation, waiver of Landing charges, Parking charges are provided for Indian freighters and P2C (Passenger-to-Cargo) Aircraft by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Ministry of Defence at their selected Krishi Udan airports. In addition, Route Navigation Facility Charges (RNFC) and Terminal Navigational Landing Charges (TNLC) are waived off at the selected AAI airports.
