

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3871
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH August, 2025

SPICE FARMERS IN KERALA

3871. ADV K. FRANCIS GEORGE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that spice farmers in Kerala, particularly cardamom growers in high range districts are facing significant production losses due to adverse climate conditions such as prolonged heat waves, erratic rainfall and droughts;
- (b) if so, the details of crop loss estimates and affected farmer numbers reported from Kerala in the current and previous financial year;
- (c) whether the Government has extended any special assistance packages, subsidies or compensation to spice farmers affected by such climate-related crop failures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including scheme-wise and district-wise allocation and utilisation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Spices Board is mandated with the Export Promotion of spices and quality evaluation of spices exported from India (53 scheduled spices and its products) & Research and Development of Cardamom (Small & Large). The Board has mandate for production and research for cardamom. As per the information provided by Spice Board due to adverse climate conditions, there was a decrease of 19.93% in production of cardamom in Kerala state, from 22868 MT in 2023-24 to 18310 MT in 2024-25, as per the crop estimate for 2024-25. It has also been observed that plantations with proper shade regulation, canopy size and irrigation facilities have survived with minimal damage. Further, for the current year, the preliminary crop assessment for cardamom is in progress.

(c) & (d): The Board is implementing the central sector scheme "Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development (SPICED)" from FY 2024-25, for the benefit of stakeholders of spices sector across India, including the State of Kerala. Under the SPICED scheme various programs are implemented for the cardamom farmers for, area expansion / replanting of cardamom, production of quality planting materials of Cardamom for replanting / new planting, providing assistance for constructing water harvesting /storage facilities and installation of irrigation equipment etc. Also, with a view to facilitate realization of remunerative returns by the spice farmers, the Board is providing assistance for post-harvest improvement of spices (including cardamom), which includes support for purchase and installation of improved curing devices, graders, cleaners, washing equipment etc. aimed at improving the quality of the produce, thereby facilitating better price realization by the farmers. The details of assistance provided to Spice Farmers in Kerala under the SPICED Scheme is attached as Annexure 1.

Annexure 1: Details of Assistance provided to Spice Farmers in Kerala

No	Assistance extended under SPICED Scheme to spices farmers in Kerala during 2024-25								
	Name of programme	IDUKKI		WAYNADU			PALAKKAD	TOTAL	
		fin	ben	fin	ben	fin	ben	fin	ben
1	Replanting/New Planting (Kerala & TN)	268.07	2093	1.02	7	3.05	18	272.14	2118
2	Planting Material Production (Small Cardamom)	24.51	187	0	0	0.82	8	25.33	195
3	Construction of Water Storage Structure (Small cardamom)	17.7	58	0	0	0	0	17.7	58
4	Rainwater Harvesting Structure (Small cardamom)	7.83	49	0	0	0	0	7.83	49
5	Irrigation Pump Set (Small Cardamom)	13.03	53	0.3	1	0	0	13.33	54
6	Micro Irrigation/Sprinkler/ICT Enabled Equipment (Small Cardamom)	9.21	17	0	0	0	0	9.21	17
7	Weather Based Insurance for Cardamom (small cardamom)	62.21	670	0	0	0	0	62.21	670
8	QGBG-Setting up of Post-Harvest Machines	13.85	889	0	0	0	0	13.85	889
9	Spices Polishers	8.46	31	0	0	0	0	8.46	31
10	Spice Cleaners/Graders/Spiral Gravity Separators	1.32	3	0	0	0	0	1.32	3
11	Spice Washing Equipment	15.31	29	0	0	0	0	15.31	29
12	Improved Curing Devices for Small Cardamom	26.43	21	0	0	0.78	1	27.21	22
13	Care and Cure Centers for FPOs	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
14	QITP	2.09	1093	0	0	0.08	40	2.17	1133
15	Extension Advisory Services	24.85	13	0	0	0	0	24.85	13
	Grand Total	483.02	4318	1.32	8	4.73	67	489.07	4393
