

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3875
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH August, 2025

CULTIVATION OF BLACK PEPPER

3875: SHRI UJJWAL RAMAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government proposes to provide special benefits to farmers for cultivating black pepper to increase the profits of the farmers of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of States in the country where black pepper is being cultivated successfully at present;
- (c) whether cultivation of black pepper being done through modern technology is satisfactory in different States of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) whether there has been increase in the income of farmers due to this and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented from 2014-15 with the aim for holistic development of horticulture in the country. Under MIDH, several development programs are available for the benefit of pepper farmers in the country, wherein financial assistance is being provided for various components i.e. production of planting materials, area expansion, promotion of IPM/INM, integrated post-harvest management etc.

Apart from the above, the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) directly implements specific programmes through State Agricultural Universities (SAU) and ICAR Institutes located in the major pepper growing States. The major programmes taken up by DASD for black pepper are as under:

- Production and distribution of nucleus planting materials of high yielding varieties of black pepper
- Setting up of hi-tech nurseries to ensure a steady supply of high-quality planting materials of spices including black pepper
- Accreditation of black pepper nurseries in both the public and private sectors
Establishment of frontline demonstration to promote organic production technology in black pepper
- Supporting ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research for developing a scientific technique for varietal authentication of black pepper

(b): Black pepper is cultivated as a successful means of livelihood in around ten States across the country, with the area under cultivation ranging from approximately 500 ha to 2 lakh hectares. The major black pepper growing States include Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Goa, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal. In addition, black pepper is also cultivated to a limited extent in Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram etc.

(c): Black pepper cultivation in the country is progressing through the spread of high yielding varieties and adoption of modern technologies in crop production, integrated pest/disease management etc. For instance, in Karnataka, the area under black pepper cultivation increased by 38%, and production rose by 36% during the five-year period from 2019-20 to 2023-24. Similarly, the black pepper cultivation is gaining momentum in States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Meghalaya, West Bengal etc. This increase in both area and production have been achieved through adoption of the latest available technologies in crop management. However, Uttar Pradesh is not a prominent black pepper growing State.

(d): No authentic studies are currently available revealing the role of black pepper in increasing the income of black pepper farmers. However, it is evident that the increase in area and production of black pepper coupled with good prevailing prices is significantly contributing to the increase of farmers' income.
