

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2754
 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16th DECEMBER, 2025

PROMOTION OF MAKHANA

2754. Shri Gopal Jee Thakur:

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

- (a) whether Darbhanga district is the main hub of Makhana production in the country having immense potential for cultivation, research, processing and export;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a National Makhana Board in Darbhanga district in view of these potential;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any process of DPR/feasibility report, budget estimate or site selection for setting up of Makhana Board;
- (d) the direct benefits to local farmers, exports, processing units and job creating with the setting of the Board there; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to issue a special policy for GI branding, MSP fixation and international market expansion for Makhana-based products?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): India is the largest producer of Makhana with 80% of global production. Out of which Bihar contributes 85% of the national production of Makhana. Darbhanga district is widely known as one of the primary hubs of Makhana production in Bihar; and it has been acknowledged for its strong potential in cultivation and processing. An ICAR-National Research Centre on Makhana is also situated in Darbhanga. Darbhanga has been recognized under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative specifically for Makhana.

(c) to (e): Makhana sector holds immense potential both as fresh and value added production for uplifting economic status of large number of farmers and fishermen in the potential States. In order to tap this potential, Government has established National Makhana Board vide Gazette notification dated 14.09.2025 with primary objective to improve production, processing, value addition, marketing and export promotion. The key focus of the Board includes enhancing production and productivity of Makhana through scientific research, improved farm techniques, better harvesting and processing technology.

Government of India has also approved a Central Sector Scheme for Development for Makhana with an outlay of Rs.476.03 crore for a period of six years (i.e. from 2025-26 to 2030-31) across the country. The key components of the scheme include need-based research and innovation in the makhana sector, production and distribution of quality seeds, capacity building and skill development of farmers and stakeholders, improved harvesting practices and post-harvest management, value addition, branding and marketing support, export promotion to enhance India's share in global makhana trade, and quality control measures to ensure competitiveness in domestic and international markets.

A separate HSN code has also been created for Makhana to help in promoting its export and Mithila Makhana has also received GI Tag for its brand promotion in domestic and international markets.