

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND DECEMBER, 2025

PRESERVE THE AGRICULTURAL LAND

313. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken so far to preserve the “virginity” of agricultural land in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any project for implementing sustainable farming practices, enacting and enforcing regulations that protect farmland from conversion to other uses, and promoting awareness about the importance of land conservation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken so far to minimize the use of synthetic pesticides by integrating biological control methods and other sustainable pest management strategies; and
- (e) the projects to promote efficient irrigation techniques, like drip irrigation and micro-sprinklers, to conserve water resources and reduce waterlogging in agriculture sector of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was approved by the Union Cabinet on 25.11.2024 to promote Natural Farming across the country. Natural Farming is a chemical free farming, involving livestock integrated natural farming methods and diversified crop systems rooted in the Indian traditional knowledge. It aims to improve soil health, restoring ecosystems and reducing input cost to the farmers.

The mission target is 15,000 clusters to initiate Natural Farming in 7.5 Lakh Ha area covering 18.75 lakhs farmers and to make 1 crore farmers aware of Natural Farming. Till date, over 15 lakh farmers have been enrolled under the Mission. For easy availability of natural farming bio-inputs like Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, etc., the Mission provides for 10,000 need-based Bio-input Resource Centres for natural farming farmers.

Natural farming is integrated with livestock involves use of on-farm inputs like Beejamrut, Jeevamrut, Ghan Jeevamrut, Neemastra, Dashparni, etc., multi-cropping systems, Pre-monsoon dry sowing, biomass based mulching, use of traditional varieties of seeds, integration of trees on buffer zones of farm, etc. By combining biological control, habitat management, and eco-friendly formulations, Natural Farming reduces dependence on chemical pesticides while maintaining crop health and productivity.

(e): Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country from 2015-16. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The Government provides financial assistance @ 55% for small and marginal farmers and @ 45% for other farmers for installation of Drip and Sprinkler systems under the PDMC. Besides some State Government also provide Top-up subsidy to farmers from their State Budget. Total area of 106.75 lakh ha. has been covered under micro irrigation through PDMC scheme as on 31.10.2025.
