

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3924**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026

**PROMOTING CROP DIVERSIFICATION**

3924. SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that disproportionate cultivation of paddy had serious implications for sustainability, climate resilience and public health;
- (b) whether it is also true that the state of Kerala has been advised to shift to promote pulses, oilseeds and millets instead of paddy cultivation;
- (c) whether it is true that the State of Kerala was also advised not to provide incentives to paddy farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d): Yes the disproportionate cultivation of rice is unsustainable in irrigated areas of several states. However, Kerala has a traditional practice of cultivating paddy in saline back waters where no other crop can be cultivated during the kharif season. The climate resilient salinity tolerant varieties of rice mitigate the effect of climate change in coastal regions.

Further, Crop Diversification is being promoted through the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, the National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oilseeds & Oil PALM, the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) by encouraging the production and productivity of crops like Millets, Coarse cereals, pulses, oil seeds, oil palm and horticultural crops in all states including Kerala. The funds under these centrally sponsored Schemes are provided to the states based on the requirement & plan given by the states. During the year 2025-2026, as per the State's Annual Action Plan, the state of Kerala has been approved, Rs.48 lakhs under NFSNM, Rs. Rs.4200 lakhs under MIDH and Rs.1078 lakhs under NMEO-oil palm.

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