

O.I.H.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 27
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH APRIL, 2016

ORGANIC FARMING

*27. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE:
DR. BHOLA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether organic farming is being promoted in various States including Scheduled Caste/Tribe dominated forest areas of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the organic farming is more beneficial as compared to chemical based farming and also tides over the problem of agrarian distress and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any special package for extensive promotion of organic farming across the country including Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has also launched a special campaign for propagating the benefits of organic farming amongst the farmers in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH APRIL, 2016.

(a): Government is promoting organic farming across the country under various Central Sector Schemes viz. National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Network Project on Organic Farming Under ICAR etc. for the benefit of all farmers including scheduled caste and scheduled tribe farmers and in all the states including Madhya Pradesh.

Under all the above schemes, there is a provision of financial assistance @ 9% and 17% for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Caste farmers (all India average) respectively, including in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Under PKVY, which is the first comprehensive scheme to promote organic farming, the implementation is done on a cluster basis. A cluster of 50 acres is formed by providing financial assistance upto a maximum of 1 ha per farmer within the cluster to undertake conversion from inorganic to organic practice. The guidelines on PKVY stipulate that organic farming should be promoted in such areas like hilly, tribal and also rain-fed, where utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticide is less.

(b): Agro-chemical based farming is more relevant in irrigated area. The response of crops to intensive use of agro-chemicals like fertilizers is positive when there is enough water. However, for sustainability, balanced and regulated use of fertilizer is necessary. In rainfed and hilly areas, dependable source of water is absent or less than needed and hence organic farming is expected to result in a more sustainable farming practice, besides enhancing per unit yields when optimal management practices are adopted. The advantages of organic farming under rainfed /hilly farming systems are sustainability of soil fertility, conservation of bio-resources and integrated farming. Organic products when certified and branded can fetch premium prices.

(c): The Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is the first comprehensive scheme launched by the Central Government as a centrally sponsored programme (CSP), where the Central and state Govts. Share the funding in varying ratio. It is 100% in UT, 90:10 in North-Eastern and Hilly States and 60:40 in case of other States. The scheme also covers the state of Madhya Pradesh. The scheme is implemented by the State Governments. It is implemented on a cluster basis of 20 hectare each. The farmer within the cluster is given financial assistance upto a maximum of 1 ha and the limit of assistance is Rs.50,000 per ha during the conversion period of 3 years. The target is to promote 10,000 clusters covering 5 lakh acres over the period of 3 years, 2015-16 to 2017-18.

The Annual Action Plans of 29 States and 1 Union Territory have been approved with total out lay for Rs. 511.67 crore to develop 7186 clusters, out which the central share is Rs.335.05 crore, against this a sum of Rs.226.18 crore has been released to the States/UT till 30.03.2016.

Realizing the potential of organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has launched a **Central Sector Scheme** entitled "**Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region**" for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

(d) & (e): The Department has been focusing on creating awareness and educating the farmers about organic farming practices in the areas where clusters are formed, under PKVY. The scheme guidelines provide a sum of Rs.80,000 per cluster to undertake mobilization of farmers through exposure visits and training. The National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF),

Ghaziabad, a unit under the department undertakes various extension and publicity activities like exhibitions, radio talks, TV programmes, distribution of literature on organic inputs/ organic farming etc. to educate the farmers. NCOF is also publishing biannually Bio-Fertilizer Newsletter as well as quarterly Organic Farming Newsletter. In addition, various books on production and use of bio-fertilizers have been published in various languages for distribution to the farming community. Radio jingles on organic agriculture are broadcasted on 4 different FM Radio Stations including Delhi, Bangalore, Nagpur and Lucknow.

NCOF organizes 30 days certificate course on organic farming for skill development in organic agriculture sector for youth. It also conducts 10 days Refresher course for analysts under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO); 5 Days Trainers Training & 2 Days training for field functionaries and extension staff of the State Government.

NCOF has also been organizing Farmers' Training and Field Demonstration (FTFD) programmes on organic farming since 2015-16 in various villages adopted by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament under "Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana" (SAGY), through its Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs). It has completed 300 no. of FTFD in 2015-16 and has scheduled 297 no. in the year 2016-17.
