

Kumarghat-Agartala which was a National Project has been completed as MG section and planned to be converted to BG alongwith Badarpur-Kumarghat gauge conversion section.

National Projects as well as other projects in North Eastern Region have been delayed mainly due to lack of adequate funds, and also due to land acquisition problems, delay in forestry clearances, law and order situation etc. Geological challenges in deep Himalayas have also caused delay in some of these projects.

An all time high outlay of ₹ 4500 crores has been provided in 2014-15 for National Projects of North Eastern Region. Field units have also been empowered for faster decision making.

Organic farming in tribal areas

†*278. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has developed any programme for the development of organic farming in the tribal majority and forest dweller areas, especially in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for promotion, spread and strengthening of organic farming in the tribal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):
(a) to (c) Government is promoting organic farming across the country including the tribal and forest areas of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal through various programmes under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR.

Under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of NMSA, financial assistance upto 50% of cost subject to a limit of ₹ 5,000/- per hectare and ₹10,000/- per beneficiary is provided for promotion of organic inputs. Also, financial assistance upto 33% of financial outlay, subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹ 63.00 lakhs for establishment of agro / vegetable waste compost production units, and 25% of financial outlay subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹ 40.00 lakhs for biofertilizers production units, is provided as back-ended subsidy through NABARD.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Government is promoting organic farming through cluster approach as well as through adoption of organic village. Financial assistance @ ₹ 20,000/ha subject to maximum of ₹ 40,000/- per beneficiary for three year term is provided for adoption of organic farming through cluster approach under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification. Financial assistance of ₹ 10 lakh per village is provided for organic village adoption (maximum 10 village per annum/state).

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under Ministry of Commerce is implementing National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) to provide various services such as certification, notification of standards, and assistance for promotion of exports of organic products.

Exhibitions/Fairs, TV/Radio programmes/Radio Jingles etc. are used to promote organic farming.

A centre of Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), has been established at ICAR Research Complex, for North Eastern Hill (NEH) Region, Umiam, Meghalaya. Another centre of NPOF has been sanctioned for ICAR Complex, Gangtok, Sikkim. The center has developed package of practices for 12 crops so far. Technology for organic production has been demonstrated in a village (Mynasin) having about 60 ha. area with 130 households in Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya in a cluster approach under NPOF-tribal sub plan (TSP) programme. Trainings for analysts, field functionaries and extension officers are also conducted for capacity building in respect of organic farming.

Control in prices of vegetables and fruits

*279. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism has been put in place to monitor and regulate the demand and supply of vegetables and fruits to keep their prices under control, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to set up any regulating/ monitoring agency in this regard, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no separate mechanism to monitor and regulate the demand and supply of vegetables and fruits. Their prices are already being monitored on regular basis along with other essential