

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2113

TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/08/2024

COMPENSATION TO HORTICULTURE FARMERS

2113. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government gives compensation to horticulture farmers for their damaged horticulture crops during natural calamities, just like it gives compensation for crops during natural calamities;
- (b) if so, the amount of compensation given and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to promote horticulture in the country, especially in Punjab; and
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study on the reasons for drying up of orchards in Punjab and other States, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature, as per the established procedures. The assistance approved under SDRF/NDRF norms is provided in the form of relief. The relief is provided for Agriculture and Horticulture crops as input subsidy as per revised items and norms of assistance under SDRF & NDRF issued by Ministry of Home Affairs dated 11.07.2023, which is available on www.ndmindia.mha.gov.in.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during XII Plan w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices,

flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa. All States (including Punjab) and UTs are covered under MIDH scheme.

The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables through various interventions. Activities such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including insitu generation of organic inputs are taken up for development of fruits and vegetables. Capacity buildings of farmers and technicians are also provided for adopting improved technologies. Scheme also envisages creation of infrastructure for post harvest management (PHM) and marketing for better price realization of produce.

Under MIDH scheme, there is no specific provision for compensation to farmers for their damage due to natural calamities. However, special packages are being provided under MIDH to tackle unforeseen situations as per the demand received from the States. Details of the funds released under special packages to the States/UTs since inception of scheme i.e. from 2014-15 is as under:

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Funds Released(GoI Share)
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	341.07 crore
2.	Ladakh	28.82 crore
3.	Kerala	56.03 crore
4.	Tamil Nadu	142.00 crore

Further, ICAR institutes are promoting horticulture in the country including Punjab through dissemination of their developed varieties and technologies to farmers and other stakeholders using trainings and frontline demonstrations, radio/TV talks, Kisan Melas / Gosthis, other exhibitions, release and distribution of various publications, and dissemination on social media. ICAR-Central Institute for Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar is promoting low chill crops like pear, peach, plum in addition to low chill varieties of apple in Punjab.

ICAR has not reported any study on reasons for drying up of orchards in Punjab.
