

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2893
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

SCHEME TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON FERTILISER

2893. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) that aims to shift away dependence on fertilisers and chemical inputs in a mission mode;
- (b) whether Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs) will be setup to provide availability and accessibility to use natural farming inputs for farmers;
- (c) the details of total contribution by Central and State Governments for said project till 15th Finance Commission (2025-26); and
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to establish scientifically supported common standards and farmer friendly certification procedures for naturally grown chemical free produce in Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The Union Cabinet on 25th November 2024 has approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone centrally sponsored scheme with an overall outlay of ₹2481 crore (Government of India share - ₹1584 crore and States share - ₹897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26). The scheme aims to encourage the use of on-farm made natural farming inputs such as Jeevamrut, Beejamrut etc. Under the scheme, there is provision of 10,000 need based bio-input resource centers to provide easy access to locally produced natural farming inputs thereby reducing dependency of farmers on external markets for purchase of inputs.

(d): The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that a self-certifying certification system CETARA-NF (Certified Evaluation Tool for Agricultural Resource Analysis-Natural Farming) has been developed under the Prakritik Kheti Khushaal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y). Under this system, categorisation is on the basis of farmers as:

- i. Antraal one star (farmer has just entered the natural farming system – in conversion)
- ii. Sadharan two-star (farmers practising natural farming and producing with agrichemicals but is dependent on ex-situ inputs)
- iii. Vishisht three-star (Farmers fully practising as per the production tenets of PK3Y).
