

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2361
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06TH AUGUST, 2024

SUPPORT TO VANILLA FARMERS

2361. SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI:

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

- (a) the details of the measures being taken to improve the Natural Vanilla Crop cultivation in plantations; and
- (b) whether Western Ghat region is the ideal place to cultivate Natural Vanilla but nowadays due to fungus it is not possible to cultivate the same, and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to eradicate the disease along with the support given to farmers to grow Vanilla?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Indian Institute of Spices Research (ICAR-IISR), Kerala has developed in-house capacity for providing hands-on training programme on vanilla cultivation. The institute maintains a large germplasm repository of vanilla comprising of various accessions in poly house and field conservatory. The institute provides consultancy services for vanilla plantations and growers and also have established protocols for planting material production in vanilla and produces planting material of vanilla crop for the farming community ensuring availability of quality planting material. The major diseases of vanilla are Stem rot/ root rot, Bean rot and Stem blight. ICAR-IISR has also developed an Integrated Disease Management Technology to manage these diseases.

(b) & (c): Vanilla is cultivated along the Western Ghats of Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu. Western Ghat region is an ideal place to cultivate Natural Vanilla crop. Vanilla is grown under high humid and rain fed/ irrigated conditions and is prone to fungal and other infection from the surrounding tree canopy and biomass. The fungal disease plays a major role in restricting vanilla cultivation.

Government of Karnataka is providing assistance of Rs.7500 for General Category and Rs.9000 for Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST) category per hectare for taking up plant protection measures in horticulture crops including vanilla crop.
