

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2654
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
PLANTATION OF FRUIT BEARING TREES
Maurya Shri Keshav Prasad

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various steps taken by the Government to increase the participation and awareness of public to grow more fruit bearing trees in the country;
- (b) if so, whether there is any scheme with the Government to promote the plantation of fruit bearing trees, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that fruit bearing trees can be planted on both sides of the National Highways and the task of their conservation can be done under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt. of India is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for promotion of horticulture crops including fruit bearing trees like mango, guava, sapota, citrus etc. under area expansion programme. Under MIDH, assistance is provided for establishment of new gardens with integrated package and without integrated package. Under integrated package, assistance is provided up to the maximum of Rs.0.60 lakh per ha. (40% of actual cost) for meeting expenditure towards planting material, cost of drip irrigation, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management and canopy management etc. For area expansion programme without integration, maximum of Rs.0.40 lakh per ha. (40% of actual cost) is provided for meeting the expenditure on planting material, cost of integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management. The above assistances are provided in three instalments with a maximum coverage of 4 ha per beneficiary. In case of North Eastern Himalayan States, Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, assistance will be at the rate of 50% of cost. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) under Rainfed Area Development (RAD) provides financial assistance of 50% of input cost limited to Rs.25000/- per ha. for fruit bearing trees like mango, ber, guava, tamarind and jackfruit etc. up to 2 ha per beneficiary.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The 'Guidelines on Landscaping and Tree Plantations' published by the Indian Road Congress provide for plantation of fruit bearing trees on both sides of National Highways, along with other species, based on the suitability of particular species to a particular climate and ground conditions.

Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a scheme on Roadside Tree Plantation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Fruit bearing as well as non fruit bearing trees are planted along National Highways. The selection of tree species is done in consultation with the local gram panchayat, forest/horticulture departments considering the suitability & availability of the plants. The cost incurred for a period of five years (1+4) is borne by MGNREGA and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in convergence. After five years period, the beneficiary (to whom tree patta is provided) takes care of the tree.