

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2740
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
ORGANIC SPICES HUB
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to develop India as an Organic Spices Hub;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the necessary steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to various States in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under Government of India implements two schemes viz., Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for promotion of organic farming. Under MIDH, financial assistance is provided for horticulture crops including spices as per details given below :-

For adoption of organic farming – 50% of cost limited to Rs.10000/- per ha. for a maximum area of 4 ha in three instalments.

For organic certification – Rs.5 lakhs for a cluster of 50 ha. in three installments.

For establishment of vermicompost units- 50% of the actual cost of Rs.1 lakh per unit for permanent structure i.e. Rs. 50000/- and 50% of the actual cost of Rs.16000/- per unit for high density poly ethylene vermibed i.e. Rs.8000/-.

Financial assistance is provided to the States as per their proposals in the Annual Action Plan under organic farming component.

Under NMSA, assistance is also extended for soil health management, agro vegetable waste compost production unit etc. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development provides back ended subsidy for adoption of organic farming through cluster approach as well as through adoption of organic village under participatory guarantee system. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs.10 lakhs per village is provided for organic village adoption (maximum 10 villages per annum/state).

Spices Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is also promoting cultivation and export of organic spices from India with special emphasis on organic production of spices in North Eastern States.

Various development programmes are being implemented by Spices Board by providing financial assistance to growers and growers groups producing organic spices. 50% subsidy is extended for various programmes like support for vermicompost units, setting up of bio-agent production units, organic seed banks (production of organic planting materials/nurseries), organic value addition/processing unit, organic farm certification assistance. 12.5% of cost of production subject to the maximum of Rs.12500/- per ha. is provided for organic cultivation of spices like ginger, turmeric, chillies, seed spices and herbal spices.