

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 40
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026

PROMOTING HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

*40: SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is promoting horticulture development nationwide through schemes such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and through expansion of horticulture education, research and extension infrastructure;
- (b) whether the Government has examined the feasibility of establishing a Horticulture College in the Khajuraho Lok Sabha constituency considering that the population of this Bundelkhand area is predominantly dependent on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood;
- (c) whether such an institution could support research, farmer training, crop diversification and adoption of improved horticulture practices in the districts of Katni, Panna and Chhatarpur;
- (d) if no such proposal is presently under consideration, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps proposed to strengthen horticulture-based income opportunities and agricultural sustainability in this agriculture-dependent region?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 40 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21ST JULY, 2026 REGARDING 'PROMOTING HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT'.

(a): Yes. Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for holistic growth of the horticulture sector in the country covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic and medicinal plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH.

Major objectives of the MIDH scheme are as under:

- Promote holistic growth of horticulture sector, including bamboo and coconut through area based regionally differentiated strategies, which includes research, technology promotion, extension, post-harvest management, processing and marketing, in consonance with comparative advantage of each State/region and its diverse agroclimatic features;
- Encourage farmers to take part in activities in cluster approach;
- Enhance horticulture production, augment farmers' income and strengthen nutritional security;
- Improve productivity by way of quality germplasm, planting material and water use efficiency through Micro Irrigation;
- Support skill development and create employment generation opportunities for rural youth in horticulture and post-harvest management, especially in the cold chain sector;
- Enhance production of high value horticulture crops to reduce import dependence.

Further, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) plays a pivotal role in strengthening horticulture education and research in horticulture field through network of research institutes, agricultural universities, coordinated research projects, and capacity-building initiatives.

Apart from the above, Government of India plays an important role in strengthening agricultural and horticultural extension through flagship programmes such as ATMA, Mass Media Support for Agricultural Extension, Kisan Helpline Centres, etc. ensuring the effective transfer of technologies, improved farm practices leading to development of agriculture including horticulture sector.

(b) to (d): No such proposal is under consideration. However, ICAR established Kishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) at Katni, Panna and Chhatarpur districts under the jurisdiction of Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Viswavidyalaya (JNKV) plays a role for strengthening research, conducting farmers' training and adoption of improved horticulture practices in the region.

(e): The Government is implementing the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in Madhya Pradesh to promote horticulture-based income opportunities and agricultural sustainability. Under the Mission, assistance is available for production of quality planting material through nurseries and tissue culture units, area expansion under fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers and medicinal & aromatic plants, rejuvenation of old and unproductive orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water

resources and water harvesting structures, promotion of bee keeping for pollination support; horticulture mechanization, capacity building of farmers through training, exposure visits and awareness programmes, creation of post-harvest management infrastructure including pack houses, cold storages, ripening chambers, processing units and reefer vehicles; and development of marketing infrastructure such as rural markets, direct markets, retail outlets and mobile vending platforms. Farmers in the region also benefit from extension support under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE) through training, demonstrations, exposure visits, farm schools and Kisan Melas for dissemination of improved production technologies and best agricultural practices.

Apart from the above, Government of India is implementing various schemes viz., Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to protect farmers against crop losses through affordable crop insurance; Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for improving irrigation coverage and promotes efficient water use through micro-irrigation; Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) to meet the credit needs of farmers; Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for financing Post-harvest storage, primary processing, supply and chain logistics; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme that provides financial assistance to States to implement need-based projects for horticulture/agriculture sector development.
