

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3866
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026

CULTIVATION OF KALA NAMAK RICE

3866. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of cultivation of Kala Namak rice on the income of farmers in Siddharthnagar district, and if so, the details thereof during the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government has provided financial, technical and marketing assistance to Kala Namak rice cultivators for increasing production, value addition, storage, processing and transportation, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to promote the export of Kala Namak rice and facilitate access to international markets, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): Yes. The area under cultivation and productivity of Kalanamak rice has increased in the recent past augmenting the farmers' income. Production in Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh has increased to more than five times during 2018 to 2025. The sale price of Kalanamak rice has also increased from Rs 40/kg in 2018 to Rs. 150/kg in 2026 resulting into more than three fold increase in profitability vis-a-vis normal rice and boosting the number of farmers cultivating Kalanamak paddy from 2915 in 2018 to 23000 in 2024.

(b): Both the Central Government and State Governments have provided financial, technical and marketing support to *Kalanamak* rice farmers. Under the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and One District One Product (ODOP) Margin Money Scheme

(state funded), individual micro-units and FPOs setting up *Kalanamak* processing/ milling units receive credit-linked capital subsidies up to 35% (max ₹10 lakh). The Government is also promoting brand *Kalanamak* by organising *Kalanamak Mahotsavs*. A Common Facility Centre (CFC) for *Kalanamak* rice in *Siddharthnagar* has been established under One District One Product (ODOP) scheme to provide local farmers with modern processing, packaging, and export-support facilities. The State Government has earmarked dedicated project funding for the promotion, production, and processing of *Kalanamak* rice.

National Agricultural Research System under the aegis of ICAR is involved in development of varieties and conservation of large number of land races of *Kalanamak* rice. In addition to traditional *Kalanamak* varieties, six improved varieties viz. *Kalanamak KN3*, *Bauna Kalanamak 101*, *Bauna Kalanamak 102*, *Kalanamak Kiran*, *Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1* and *Pusa CRD Kalanamak 2* have been released and notified. The later two dwarf high yielding varieties of *Kalanamak* have average yield of 4.5 tons/ha against 2.5 tons/ha of traditional varieties. State Government has also notified the KVKs in Geographical Indication (GI) area of *Kalanamak* for multi-location testing of new high yielding, climate resilient varieties for their release. ICAR-Institutes/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras are facilitating the farmers in registration and conservation of traditional *Kalanamak* rice varieties with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, which has led to registration of more than 1700 land races and local varieties of rice.

For further increase in the area of *Kalanamak* rice, additional seed indents are also encouraged under Breeder Seed Program and around 15-20 quintals Breeder seed is produced every year for downstream multiplication of foundation and certified seeds by the indenting agencies. During last 5 years (2021-22 to 2025-26), a total of 389.6 quintals of quality seed of *Kalanamak* paddy varieties has been produced and distributed to farmers.

(c): Yes. The Government promotes export of *Kalanamak* rice and facilitating access to international markets through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) linking regional Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) directly to international buyers, facilitating export shipments to markets like Singapore and Nepal. Branding of *Kalanamak* rice as "Buddha Rice" promotes its cultural legacy to target high-value markets in Buddhist nations such as Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, and Myanmar. *Siddharthnagar* and its surrounding Terai districts have been integrated into APEDA's Agri-Export Zone framework for specialty rice, facilitating priority financial assistance for export packaging, residue testing, and quarantine compliance.
