

Regarding Need to provide special package of Rs. 2500 crore to Punjab for promoting crop diversification-Laid

DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL (HOSHIARPUR): Crop diversification is a critical solution to Punjab's agricultural crisis that can reverse severe groundwater depletion and soil degradation and help enhance ecological sustainability and improve food security. There is an urgent need to shift to less water-intensive crops like maize, pulses and oilseeds in the State. Plethora of measures that need to be taken include the expansion of MSP to more diverse crops like pulses, oilseeds etc. which should be announced well in advance and for longer durations. The Government can also consider subsidizing seeds, micro-nutrients and crop protection specifically for alternate crops. Government need to promote crops with low water requirements by giving on-farm incentives owing to severe groundwater depletion in Punjab. Recognising these challenges, State Government of Punjab has been making concerted efforts to promote crop diversification towards less water-intensive and higher-value crops such as maize, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, horticulture and agro-forestry. While diversification is vital for sustainability and farmer welfare, it carries transition costs and income risks beyond the State's capacity alone. Accordingly, there is a strong need for the Central Government to suitably compensate and support the State Government of Punjab by providing a special package of ₹2,500 crore exclusively for promoting crop diversification.

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At this stage, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Sushri Mahua Moitra, Shrimati Sanjna Jatav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

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The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

15.0½ hrs