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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Sikkim to become first fully organic farming state.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Sikkim, under the leadership of India's greenest Chief Minister, has more than 50,000 farming families who have adopted organic farming over the last decade. By 2015, Sikkim will become the first fully organic State in the country under its Organic Mission. It set upon this path almost a decade ago when the State Government constituted a State Organic Board and moved a resolution in the State Assembly to convert Sikkim into an organic state. Since 2006-07, the State Government has completely stopped lifting the quota of chemical fertilizers extended by the Government of India and shut all public and private sale point for chemical fertilizers.

However, agriculture still requires organic inputs in the form of bio-fertilizers and manure. Sikkim's withdrawal from the use of chemical fertilizers implies that it no longer avails associated subsidies. To provide alternatives to farmers, rural compost units and vermi- compost units have been constructed. More investment is necessary on these inputs to achieve the State's Organic Mission. Sikkim is not able to adequately meet these demands unless there is a special help from the central government.

I urge the Minister of Agriculture to take note of our forfeiture of subsidies in pursuit of organic farming and request him to redirect them towards alternative inputs which are now required.

Adequate financial assistance from the centre in this regard will ensure that Sikkim achieves its organic mission and sets a precedence for the rest of the country to follow.

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