

F. No. 20-9/2017-NBB
National Bee Board (NBB)
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW),
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Govt. of India

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 01.04.2020

To,
The Directors (Horti.)/ Mission Directors (SHM)/Secretaries (Horti./Agri.) of all State Govts.

Subject: Request for Permitting beekeepers to move /migrate their honey bee colonies & honey-reg.
Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Deptt.'s. email sent by Dr. B.N.S. Murthy, Horticulture Commissioner & Mem Sec., National Bee Board, dated 25.03.2020 enclosing therewith requests of beekeepers on the subject mentioned above & and to say that the beekeepers are still facing lot of problems in their movement & migration/transportation of honey bee colonies & honey.

2. As you are aware, Beekeeping is an agro based activity which is being undertaken by farmers/beekeepers/landless labourers in rural areas as a part of Integrated Farming System (IFS). Honey bees are crucial foragers/pollinators and help in increasing incomes of the farmers by way of increasing the yield of various agricultural and horticultural crops. Further, they provide honey and other high valued bee hive products, viz., royal jelly, bee pollen, propolis, bee wax, bee venom, etc., which generate income and employment for beekeepers/rural people and serve as a source of their livelihood. They also help in sustaining bio-diversity & environmental sustainability.

3. Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, this Deptt. is promoting this activity under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping for pollination support of crops and generating income & employment in the country and also to achieve the goal of Sweet /Gold Revolution. Further, National Bee Board (NBB), has been recognized as a nodal agency for overall development/promotion of scientific beekeeping in the country. On its part, the National Bee Board (NBB) has issued identify cards to its member beekeepers /firms / societies, etc. and initiated nation-wide registration of beekeepers & issuing Registration Certificate.

4. For commercial / scientific beekeeping and to make it sustainable & viable, it becomes necessary to migrate honey bee colonies from one place to other place/State/ areas where be friendly plants/flora is available. It is the peck time for migration of honey bee colonies from one place to other place. However, due to lock down as essential measure against COVID19, the beekeepers are facing problems in migration, which is adversely affecting beekeeping/beekeepers.

5. Though some of the State Govts., viz.; Haryana, UP, Uttarakhand, etc., have issued orders by putting placement & transport of honey bee colonies & honey, etc. as essential service & to allow the same. However, at field/ District levels beekeepers are still facing problem in migration of honey bee colonies & honey.

6. Keeping in view the above, you are requested to issue instructions to the Districts/ Local Administration & Police in the State to allow migration of honey bee colonies & honey or others beehive products from one place to other place to save beekeeping & beekeepers.

Yours' Faithfully



(Dr. B.L. Sarswat)
Executive Director

Copy for information and necessary action to the Chief Secretaries of all States.