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## After 5 years, farmers to get subsidised gypsum

**AMANINDER PAL**  
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Taking yet another populist measure before the Assembly elections, the state government, after a gap of around five years, has decided to resume the scheme of providing subsidised gypsum to farmers.

Sources said the government would give Rs 5 crore for providing 50 per cent subsidy to farmers for the purchase of gypsum ahead of the rabi season. The subsidy amount will be deposited directly into the bank accounts of farmers under the direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme. The farmers will be

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**Dr JS Bains, DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE**

free to purchase stock from the sellers of their choice.

“The government has received Rs 5 crore for crop diversification under the Centre Government-sponsored Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. It has been decided to use the fund to

provide subsidy to farmers on gypsum,” said Director Agriculture Dr JS Bains.

“In the open market, gypsum is available at Rs 300-330 per 50 kg bag. However, the gypsum produced by the Centre Government’s Indian Potash Limited (IPL) is available at Rs 150 per 50 kg. We are at final stage of assessing the difference in quality,” Bains said.

Although land in Punjab is largely reclaimed, gypsum is required for land under oilseed cultivation and recommended for regular use on land under paddy cultivation. Around 2 lakh quintals of gypsum is used by farmers every year.

*ReyShnee*  
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