GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1445
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/09/2020

SUPPORT TO FARMERS FOR ADDRESSING COVID-19 SITUATION

1445. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many migrant labourers who were forced to return to their villages due to the COVID-19 lockdown have now started farming;

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken by Government to support such people;

(c) the manner in which Government plans to support farmers during the next few months of COVID-19 crisis;

(d) whether there have been any farmer suicides after March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such suicides?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c) There is no such data relating to migrant labourers who were forced to return to their villages due to the COVID-19 lockdown and have now resumed farming.

The Government has proactively made the following interventions during Covid -19 Pandemic lockdown for the welfare of farmers across the country.

(i) Allocating Rs.20 lakh crore package for 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' which also includes Creation of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs.1 lakh crore and Rs 500 crore for Bee-Keeping initiative

(ii) Brought out two Ordinances namely The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 and Empowerment and Protection of farmers for Agreements of Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020.

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(iii) Since 24th March, 2020 under PM Kisan Scheme, an amount of Rs.40000 crore has been deposited to the bank account of farmers.

(iv) Government facilitated the farmer for timely harvest of the entire crop, resulting in record procurement of Rabi crop production.

(v) Sowing Area coverage for Kharif Crops increased by 5.68% compared to the corresponding period during the last year.

(vi) Several steps were taken to decongest wholesale market and to boost the supply chain like integration of e-NAM with e-NWR, insurance of passes/e-passes to FPOs, launching of Uberisation Module of logistics aggregators for making transport available to the farmers for faster movement of farm produce, creation of separate cell in Department for monitoring supply and prices of essential goods and fruits and vegetables. Formulation and approval of Central Sector Scheme for promoting 1000 FPOs, launching of Kisan Rath Mobile App and Farm Machinery Mobile App.

(vii) Starting of Kisan Rail to provide seamless connectivity among farmers, markets and consumers and help farmers send their perishable agro-products to inter-state markets in a time bound manner.

(viii) Procurement centres were increased.

(d) & (e) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2019 are available on its website.

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