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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 643
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18/09/2020

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FARMERS

643 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on farmers' income;

(b) the steps that are being taken by Government to ensure that the farmers' income is not impacted by the lockdown measures;

(c) whether all steps are being taken to ensure that the health and hygiene of farmers is not impacted while carrying out farming activities, and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to educate the farmers about the dangers of COVID 19?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The latest available estimates on income of agricultural households are based on the 'Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households' conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO) during its 70th round (January 2013-December 2013) for the reference agricultural year July 2012-June 2013). As per the survey results, the average monthly income per agricultural household from all sources is estimated to be Rs. 6,426/-.

There is no such income assessment report available which provides impact of Covid-19 on farmers' income.

(b): Government has taken several welfare measures to mitigate the impact on farmers' income due to Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. These include: creation of 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' of Rs 1 lakh crore and allocating Rs 500 crore for Bee-Keeping initiatives; 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'; deposited more than Rs. 40000 crore to the bank account of farmers under PM Kisan Scheme since 24th March, 2020; claim of Rs 5327 crores were paid to farmers under PMFBY scheme, etc.

(c) & (d): In the wake of COVID-19 threat, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Famers Welfare circulated the SOP related to crop harvesting & threshing during kharif 2020 to the States in order to protect health of farmers and farm workers and to contain the spread of Corona virus. Moreover, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) issued detailed advisories for various farm operations, including harvesting and threshing of rabi crops and post-harvest, storage and marketing of farm produce.

Besides, a video film on social distancing has been broadcast/telecast through DD/DD-Kisan & AIR. Various National and State-specific advisories disseminated through digital platforms, like m-Kisan portal, WhatsApp groups, Online Apps and Expert systems, newspapers, radio, TV channels, Facebook and other ICT platforms for benefit to the farmers.

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