

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03/02/2023

SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

208. DR. V. SIVADASAN

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

- (a) whether there are any schemes specifically designed for the agricultural workers by the ministry;
- (b) if so, details of the such schemes; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure minimum wages and decent standard of living to the crores of agricultural workers in the country who are often landless and live below poverty line?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government of India is committed to the welfare of farmers. It is providing assistance and incentives to agricultural workers through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Scheme which are being implemented all over the country. A brief of major beneficiary oriented schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and farmers Welfare is given in Annexure-I.

(c) Agriculture is a state subject. Minimum Wages Act, 1948 empowers states to fix, review and revise minimum wages of employees employed in the scheduled employments including agriculture under their respective jurisdictions.

Some of the major measures taken/schemes implemented by the Government for welfare of landless agricultural workers are given in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Brief details of major schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Sl No	Name of the Scheme	Purpose
1	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)	PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme launched on 24th February 2019 to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers, subject to exclusions. Under the scheme, financial benefit of Rs 6000/- per year is transferred in three equal four-monthly installments into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
2	Pradhan Mantri Kisan MaanDhan Yojana (PM-KMY)	In order to provide financial support and security to the most vulnerable farmer families, Government launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana w.e.f. 12.09.2019 to provide pension benefits to small and marginal farmers. PM KMY is meant for Small and Marginal Farmers falling in the entry age between 18 to 40 years having cultivable land up to 2 hectares The scheme seeks to provide Rs 3,000/- monthly pension to the Small and Marginal Farmers once they attain 60 years of age.
3	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	PMFBY was launched in 2016 in order to provide a simple and affordable crop insurance product to ensure comprehensive risk cover for crops to farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest and to provide adequate claim amount. The scheme is demand driven and available for all farmers.
4	Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)	The Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) provides concessional short term agri-loans to the farmers practicing crop husbandry and other allied activities like animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries. ISS is available to farmers availing short term crop loans upto Rs.3.00 lakh at an interest rate of 7% per annum for one year. Additional 3% subvention is also given to the farmers for prompt and timely repayment of loans thus reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% per annum. The benefit of ISS is also available for post-harvest loans against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) on crop loans for a further period of six months post-harvest to small and marginal farmers having Kisan

		Credit Cards (KCCs), on occurrence of natural calamities and severe natural calamities.
5	Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)	<p>In order to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure, Agri Infra Fund was launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package. AIF was introduced with a vision to transform the agriculture infrastructure landscape of the country. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee support. The Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore under the scheme will be disbursed from FY 2020-21 to FY2025-26 and the support under the scheme will be provided for the duration of FY2020-21 to FY2032-33.</p> <p>Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE for loans up to Rs. 2 Crores. Further, each entity is eligible to get the benefit of the scheme for up to 25 projects located in different LGD codes.</p> <p>Eligible beneficiaries include Farmers, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations(FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Projects, State Agencies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees (Mandis), National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of FPOs (Farmer Produce Organizations) and Federations of Self Help Groups (SHGs).</p>
6	Formation & Promotion of new 10,000 FPOs	The Government of India has launched the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)” in the year 2020. The scheme has a total budgetary outlay of Rs.6865 crores. Formation & promotion of FPOs are to be done through Implementing Agencies (IAs), which further engage Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to form & provide professional handholding support to FPOs for a period of 5 years.

		<p>FPOs get a financial assistance upto Rs 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 03 years. In addition to this, provision has been made for matching equity grant upto Rs. 2,000 per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs. 15.00 lakh per FPO and a credit guarantee facility upto Rs. 2 crore of project loan per FPO from eligible lending institution to ensure institutional credit accessibility to FPOs. Suitable provisions have been made for training and skill development of FPOs.</p> <p>Further, FPOs are onboarded on National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform which facilitate online trading of their agricultural commodities through transparent price discovery method to enable FPOs to realize better remunerative prices for their produce.</p>
7	Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)	Per Drop More Crop scheme mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation. Besides promoting precision irrigation (drip and sprinkler irrigation systems) and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources, this component also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities to supplement micro irrigation.
8	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)	The scheme aims at making the extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by disseminating technology to farmers through new institutional arrangements viz. Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level to operationalize extension reforms in a participatory mode.
9	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)	Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is being implemented w.e.f April, 2014 which aims at catalyzing an accelerated but inclusive growth of agricultural mechanization in India with the objectives of Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low, Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership, Creating hubs for hi-tech& high value farm equipments, Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities and Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

10	Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)	SMSP covers the entire gamut of seed production chain, from production of nucleus seed to supply of certified seeds to the farmers, to provide support for creation of infrastructure conducive for development of the seed sector, support to the public seed producing organisations for improving their capacity and quality of seed production, create dedicated seed bank to meet unforeseen circumstances of natural calamities, etc.
11	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) aims at development of sustainable models of organic farming through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure long term soil fertility build-up, resource conservation and helps in climate change adaptation and mitigation. It primarily aims to increase soil fertility and thereby helps in production of healthy food through organic practices without the use of agro-chemicals.
12	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	The Mission aims at increasing production of rice, wheat, pulses coarse cereals (maize & barley), nutri-cereals (jowar, bajra, ragi & other small millets) and commercial crops (jute, cotton & sugarcane) and oilseeds through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner in the identified districts of the country.
13	Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)	ISAM supports state governments in governing the agricultural produce marketing through creation and improvement of market structures, capacity building and generating access to market information. During 2017-18, National Agriculture Market Scheme popularly known as e-NAM scheme has also been made part of the same. 1260 mandis of 22 States and 03 UTs have been integrated to e-NAM platform.
14	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched during 2014-15 for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and Bamboo.
15	Soil Health Card (SHC)	Soil Health Card is used to assess the current status of soil health and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management. A Soil Health Card displays soil health indicators and associated descriptive terms. The indicators are typically based on farmers' practical experience and knowledge of local natural resources. The card lists soil health indicators that can be assessed without the aid of technical or laboratory equipment.

16	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	The Scheme aims to promote integrated farming systems by focusing on multi-cropping, crop rotation and allied activities like livestock, apiculture etc. Integrated farming systems helps in minimizing adverse impact of crop failure through diversified systems thereby enhancing production and productivity of rainfed area and helping in sustaining the income of small and marginal farmers even in climatic variability.
17	Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	The scheme focuses on creation of pre & post-harvest infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors that help in supply of quality inputs, market facilities, etc to farmers. It provides flexibility and autonomy to states to implement projects as per the local farmers' needs and priorities from a bouquet of activities in agriculture and allied sectors. The scheme aims to fill the resources gap of agriculture and allied sectors by providing financial support to states for undertaking various activities to increase in overall growth of agriculture and allied sectors and farmers' income. Allocation for the scheme during 2022-23 is Rs 3031.08 crore.
18.	National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm	National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) has been launched during the year 2021-22 with the aim to enhance the edible oils availability in the country by harnessing Oil Palm area expansion, increasing CPO production and to reduce the import burden on edible oil. The Mission will bring additional area of 6.5 lakh ha under Oil Palm plantation. Allocation for the scheme during 2022-23 is Rs 900 crore.
19.	Market Intervention Scheme and Price support Scheme (MIS-PSS)	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare implements the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.
20.	National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non-forest Government and private lands to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change as well as availability of quality raw material requirement of industries.

21.	National beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)	A National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) has been launched in 2020 as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Rs. 500 crore for the period 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 has been allocated for beekeeping sector.
22.	Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region	The MOVCDNER scheme aims at development of commodity specific, concentrated, certified organic production clusters in value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative in Northeast Region (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura).

Details of major measures taken/schemes implemented by the Government for the welfare of landless agricultural workers

1. Specific Target for Agriculture in Priority Sector Lending

Under the priority sector lending programme, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed focused credit to priority sectors for all Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks other than Salary Earners' Banks. Within the specific target for priority sector lending, a sub-target of 18 % has been fixed for agriculture (excluding foreign banks with less than 20 branches), out of which a sub-target of 10% is prescribed for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs). For computation of achievement of the sub-target, Small and Marginal Farmers will also include landless agricultural labourers, tenant farmers, oral lessees and sharecroppers whose share of landholding is within the limits prescribed for SMFs.

2. Financing of Joint Liability Groups (JLG) of ' Bhoomi Heen Kisan '

Tenant farmers, share croppers and oral lessees are excluded from institutional credit/formal banking institutions. These mid segment clients had access to productive assets but were unable to access institutional credit due to their inability to offer adequate security. These farmers are eligible to form JLGs.

JLGs of 'Bhoomi Heen Kisan' are informal groups of 4-10 members engaged in similar economic activities and willing to jointly undertake to repay the loans taken by the group. In the Union Budget of 2014-15, it was declared that 5 lakh JLGs of Bhoomi Heen Kisan will be financed through NABARD. RBI has issued guidelines to all Scheduled Commercial Banks in this regard.

Apart from extending refinance support to banks, NABARD also extends grant support to banks and other JLG promoting agencies for formation and nurturing of JLGs and capacity building of the stakeholders. To encourage JLG formation and promotion, NABARD provides grant assistance of Rs. 4000 per JLG.

3. Kisan Credit Card & Interest Subvention Scheme

The KCC Scheme was introduced in 1998 so that farmers may use them to readily purchase agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs. The scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with a flexible and simplified procedure for farmers (individual/joint borrowers who are owner cultivators), tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers, Self Help groups or Joint Liability Groups of farmers including tenant farmers and share croppers etc.

Moreover, since February 2020, a special drive has been undertaken under ‘KCC Saturation Drive’ in order to provide concessional credit to PM-KISAN beneficiaries not covered under KCC.

Under the Interest Subvention Scheme, tenant farmers and sharecroppers can avail short term agri-loans through KCC up to Rs. 3 lakh at subsidized rate of interest. At present, 3% incentive is available for prompt repayment of loan reducing the cost to farmers to 4% for loans to agriculture and allied activities extended through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme

4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

PMFBY Scheme was launched from Kharif 2016 with aim to support production in agriculture by providing an affordable crop insurance product to ensure comprehensive risk cover insurance support for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest stage. All tenant farmers and sharecroppers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

5. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)

The Government of India has launched the Central Sector Scheme for “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)” in the year 2020 with the main focus on leveraging economies of scale in production and marketing with a view to enhance productivity through efficient, cost effective and sustainable resource use for ensuring sustainable income oriented farming, thus helping in reduction of cost of farm production and increase in farmers’ income. Landless tenant farmers are included as eligible beneficiaries/members of FPOs.
