

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 986**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28/07/2023

**PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE**

986. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

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

- (a) the percentage of population currently working directly in the agricultural sector;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to promote agriculture and attract younger generation to farming and its allied activities;
- (c) whether the absence of remunerative prices for crops are making people in this field to leave farming and look for some other means of livelihood; and
- (d) in what manner Government will ensure that farmers are getting fair price for their produce?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The percentage of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture and allied sector as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2021-22 released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is as under:

Year	Distribution of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture and allied sector(%)
2019-20	45.56
2020-21	46.46
2021-22	45.46

Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemes for improving conditions and incomes of the farmers. These include:

- (i) Supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN of Rs 6000 per year in three equal instalments to eligible beneficiaries.
- (ii) Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent of profit margin on the cost of production.
- (iii) Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY).
- (iv) Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).
- (v) Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crore.
- (vi) New procurement policy under PM-AASHA in addition to FCI operations.
- (vii) Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops.
- (viii) Formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs.
- (ix) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- (x) Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has a potential to revolutionize the Indian agriculture.
- (xi) Benefits accruing under Bee-Keeping, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Interest Subvention Scheme, agro-forestry, restructured bamboo mission, implementation of new generation watershed guidelines, etc.
- (xii) Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- (xiii) Supply of fertilizer to farmer at subsidized price so as to reduce input cost.

(c) & (d): To ensure remunerative price to farmers for their produce and to prevent distress sale, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops and Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned. MSPs are announced every year, well before the sowing season so that the farmers can take an informed decision for sowing a particular crop. While recommending the MSP, CACP considers factors like overall demand-supply conditions, cost of production, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity,

terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of land, water and other production resources. Further, Government in its Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSP at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a margin of atleast 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from the agricultural year 2018-19 onwards.

To realize the objectives of MSP Policy, Government extends price support for paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies. Additionally, Oilseeds, pulses and copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) are procured from registered farmers under Price Support Scheme under Umbrella Scheme of PM-AASHA, as per its guidelines at MSP in consultation with the concerned State Government as and when market price of these produce fall below the MSP.

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