

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 235
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21/03/2025

REDUCTION IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR PMFBY

*235. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Budget 2025 has been reduced compared to Budget 2024;
- (b) If so, the reasons for the reduction despite the Economic Survey, 2024 acknowledging that farmers face losses due to extreme weather events;
- (c) Whether Government has assessed the impact of reduced allocation on farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) The other initiatives besides PMFBY, taken by Government to protect farmers from financial losses due to climate change and extreme weather events?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 235 FOR 21/03/2025 REGARDING REDUCTION IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR PMFBY.

(a) to (c): With a view to provide financial support to the farmers in the event of loss to crop due to non-preventable natural calamities, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance (RWBCIS) has been introduced in the country from Kharif 2016 season. The Scheme is voluntary for the States as well as farmers and is available to all farmers across the country.

On account of several interventions by Government of India (GoI), the premium rates charged by the Insurance Companies under the scheme have significantly reduced and hence the premium liability of GoI has reduced. In 2023-24 premium rate was 10.8% compared to 15.9% in 2020-21. It may be noted that Revised Estimates (2024-25) has been increased to Rs. 15864 crore as compared to Rs. 14600 crore at Budget Estimates stage (2024-25). Further, Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 01.01.2025 has approved exemption from 10% mandatory allocation in NER heads due to which funds which were surrendered in earlier years has been made available for utilisation for non-NER States which will significantly reduce past liabilities. Keeping in mind the above, BE 2025-26 has been kept at Rs. 12, 242 crore. Further, the Union Cabinet in the meeting held on 01.01.2025 has also approved an increased outlay of Rs.69,515.71 crore under the scheme for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. Therefore, sufficient funds are available for additional allocation.

(d): The Government is taking several steps to promote climate resilient agriculture practices in the country. The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Mission aims to implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. Several schemes have also been initiated under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to deal with the adverse climate situations in the agriculture sector. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme increases water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme is implemented as a component of NMSA and focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. The Soil Health & Fertility scheme assists states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Mission for Integrated

Development of Horticulture, Agroforestry & National Bamboo Mission also promote climate resilience in agriculture.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies in agriculture which address vulnerable areas of the country and the outputs of the project help the districts and regions prone to extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. to cope with such extremes. To address the impact of climate change, the National Agricultural Research System under the aegis of ICAR has released a total of 2900 varieties during last 10 years (2014- 2024). Out of which, 2661 varieties are tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses. Climate resilient technologies such as system of rice intensification, aerobic rice, direct seeding of rice, zero till wheat sowing, cultivation of climate resilient varieties tolerant to extreme weather conditions such as drought and heat; in-situ incorporation of rice residues; etc. have been developed and demonstrated.
