

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2249**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/08/2025

**STEPS TO STRENGTHEN AND STREAMLINE CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE**

2249. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the rising incidents of crop failure due to erratic monsoons and extreme weather events caused by climate change;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to strengthen crop insurance coverage and expedite compensation under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
- (c) whether there is any proposal to make PMFBY voluntary and more farmer-friendly; and
- (d) the total number of farmers who have received compensation in the last three years and the total amount disbursed under PMFBY?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Government has introduced yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities and adverse weather incidence.

PMFBY provides for comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest for crops and area notified by the concerned State Government. The scheme not only safeguards against wide spread yield loss due to non-preventable natural risks/ & extreme climate calamities viz. flood, inundation, landslide, drought, heat waves, hailstorm, cyclone, pests/diseases, natural fire and lightning, storm, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado etc. but also against farm level yield loss due to localized risks (hailstorm, landslide, inundation, cloud burst and natural fire) and post harvest losses due to cyclone, cyclonic/unseasonal rain and hailstorm and prevented sowing. Further, under RWBCIS, claims are worked out on the basis of weather parameters, such as deficit and excess rainfall, high or low temperature, humidity etc. which are deemed to impact adversely the crop production. Thus, claims are dependent on weather/climate data received from the notified Weather Stations/Rain Gauge Stations.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen the implementation of the scheme by increasing the coverage of farmer applications and ensuring timely settlement of claims:

- Government has undertaken development of **National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP)** as a single source of data ensuring subsidy payment, co-ordination, transparency, dissemination of information and delivery of services including direct online enrollment of farmers, uploading/obtaining individual insured farmer's details for better monitoring and to ensure transfer of claim amount electronically to the individual farmer's Bank Account.
- In order to rigorously monitor claim disbursement process, a dedicated module namely '**Digicclaim Module**' has been operationalized for payment of claims from Kharif 2022 onwards. It involves integration of National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) with Public Finance Management System (PFMS) and accounting system of Insurance Companies to provide timely & transparent processing of all claims.
- Delinking of Central Government share of premium subsidy from that of State Governments has been implemented so that farmers can get proportionate claims relating to the Central Government share.
- Opening of ESCROW Account by the State Government concerned for deposit of their premium share in advance as per provisions of the scheme has been made mandatory w.e.f. Kharif 2025 season.
- Also, towards leveraging technology in implementation of the scheme, various steps like capturing of yield data/Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) data through **CCE-Agri App** & uploading it on the NCIP, allowing insurance companies to witness the conduct of CCEs, integration of State land records with NCIP etc. have already been taken to improve timely settlement of the claims to farmers.
- Provision of 12% penalty on delay in payment of claims by insurance company is auto calculated on National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP).

Following technologies for Objective Crop Damage & Loss Assessment and transparency have also been implemented recently w.e.f. 2023-24 under the scheme:

- i. **YES-TECH (Yield Estimation System Based on Technology)** for gradual migration to Remote-Sensing based yield estimation to help assess yields as well as fair and accurate Crop Yield Estimation. This initiative has been launched for paddy & wheat crops from Kharif 2023 wherein 30% weightage to yield estimation will mandatorily be assigned to YES-TECH derived yield. Soybean crop has been added from Kharif 2024 season.

- ii. **WINDS (Weather Information Network and Data System)** for setting up of Network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) & Automatic Rain-Gauges (ARG) to the tune of 5 times of existing network for collecting hyper-local weather data at GP & Block level. This will be fed into a National database with interoperability & sharing of data in coordination with India Meteorological Department (IMD). WINDS provides data not only for YES-TECH but also for effective drought & disaster management, accurate weather prediction and offering better parametric insurance products.

Due to the aforesaid initiatives taken by the Government, number of farmer applications enrolled under the scheme has increased from 586 lakh in 2016-17 to 1,510 lakh in 2024-25.

(c): Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) is demand driven and is already voluntary for the States as well as farmers. Following steps have been taken to make the scheme more farmer-friendly:

- A single Pan-India toll free number 14447 has been deployed under **Krishi Rakshak Portal and Helpline (KRPH)** and linked to the insurance companies database, where farmers can raise their grievances/issues. Timelines to resolve these grievances/issues has also been fixed.
- The Government has actively supported the awareness activities being carried out by the States, implementing Insurance Companies, financial institutions, and Common Service Centres (CSCs) network to disseminate key features of PMFBY amongst farmers and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- Structured awareness campaign 'Crop Insurance Week/Fasal Bima Saptah' has been initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare since Kharif 2021 season onwards. Along with this, 'Fasal Bima Pathshalas' are also being organized at village/GP level for knowledge building of farmers on various aspects of scheme implementation.
- Government had also organized a nationwide Doorstep Crop Insurance Policy/receipt Distribution mega drive – '**Meri Policy Mere Haath**'. Hard copies of crop insurance policy receipts are distributed to farmers enrolled under PMFBY through special camps at gram Panchayat/village level.

Further, the review/revisions / rationalization / improvements in the crop insurance schemes is a continuous process and decision on suggestion/ representations/ recommendations of the stakeholders/studies are taken from time to time. Based on the experience gained, views of various stakeholders and with a view to ensure better transparency, accountability, timely payment of claims to the farmers and to make the scheme more farmer friendly, Government has periodically revised the Operational Guidelines of the PMFBY in 2018, 2020 and 2023 comprehensively to ensure that the eligible benefits under the scheme reach the farmers timely and transparently.

(d): As on 30.06.2025, **886 lakh** Farmer Applications have benefitted and total claims of **Rs.45,193 Crores** has been paid under PMFBY during the period of 2022-23 to 2024-25. (up to Kharif 2024).

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