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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 672
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24/07/2026

MEASURES TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE

672. SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that structural challenges such as fragmented landholdings, limited market access and inadequate institutional support continue to hinder agricultural productivity and farmer incomes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of initiatives undertaken by Government to promote farmer collectives, improve access to credit and strengthen market linkages for small and marginal farmers; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to enhance sustainability, profitability and resilience in agriculture through technological adoption and policy interventions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Agriculture is a State Subject. The Government of India supports the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures, various schemes/programmes, budgetary support and price support through MSP for improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability in the agriculture sector. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has been implementing several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to support farmers, including small and marginal farmers through improved access to institutional credit, modern agricultural technologies, agricultural infrastructure and better market linkages. The major schemes/programmes of DA&FW are given in the Annexure.

Food grain production has increased from 252.02 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 376.56 million tonnes in 2025-26 (Advance Estimates), while horticulture production has increased from 280.98 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 377.77 million tonnes in 2025-26 (Advance Estimates). To promote farmer collectives, the Government is implementing the Central Sector Scheme for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with the objective of organizing small and marginal farmers into collectives to enhance their bargaining power, facilitate aggregation of agricultural produce, strengthen market access, reduce intermediaries, improve access to quality inputs, institutional credit, and promote value addition, thereby improving productivity and increasing farmers' income. The fragmented landholdings issues are also being addressed through FPOs by consolidating small & marginal landholdings into larger operational units.

To improve access to institutional credit and strengthen market linkages, the Government has prescribed annual fixation of Ground Level Agricultural Credit (GLAC) targets for banks, prescription of Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets, and provision of affordable short-term crop loans through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS). From 2014-15 onwards, the overall flow of institutional agricultural credit has increased from ₹8.5 lakh crore to over ₹28 lakh crore during 2025-26 (Prov.) while, the annual institutional credit flow to Small and Marginal Farmers has increased from ₹3.47 lakh crore to ₹14.77 lakh crore during 2024-25.

The Government has also implemented structured long-term measures to economically empower farmers like direct cash benefit schemes (PM Kisan), crop insurance (PMFBY) etc. Further, the Government is strengthening agricultural infrastructure through initiatives such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which provides medium and long-term debt financing for the development of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets. Under the scheme, Government provides credit support through 3% per annum interest subvention. In addition, to enhance farmers' access to fair and transparent markets, the Government has launched the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), an online trading platform integrating Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Mandis across the country to facilitate transparent price discovery and better market access.

To enhance sustainability, profitability and resilience in agriculture, the Government has undertaken various policy interventions. The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) promotes chemical-free and low-cost farming practices for improving soil health and reducing input costs. The Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) promotes efficient use of water through drip and sprinkler irrigation. Organic farming is supported through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), while crop diversification is encouraged under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Additionally, schemes such as Soil Health & Fertility (SH&F), National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm, National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds, Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses, are being implemented to encourage farmers to adopt climate-resilient, high-value and diversified crops.

Further, the Government promotes adoption of modern agricultural technologies through the Digital Agriculture Mission, which aims to establish a robust Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture through initiatives such as AgriStack, Krishi Decision Support System, Comprehensive Soil Fertility & Profile Map and other IT initiatives. Farm mechanization is promoted through the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) by facilitating access to agricultural machinery, including through Custom Hiring Centres. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) are also facilitating dissemination of improved technologies and farmers' capacity building through extension activities.

In addition, under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), climate change risk and vulnerability assessment has been carried out for 651 agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) protocols. Capacity building for establishing village level seed banks and community nurseries is undertaken under NICRA to enable availability of seed in the adopted villages. Drought and flood tolerant climate-resilient varieties of rice, wheat, soybean, mustard, chickpea, sorghum, gram, and foxtail millet were demonstrated in several NICRA villages. Under

NICRA, technical assistance for small and marginal farmers is extended to additional vulnerable districts beyond the 151 currently covered districts, to promote adoption of climate-resilient practices. Village level institutions through farmers' participatory approach, such as Village Climate Risk Management Committees, seed and fodder banks have been established for smooth functioning and need based technology penetration. Further, ICAR has released 2900 varieties during last 10 years (2014-2024) of which 2661 varieties are tolerant to one or more biotic or abiotic stresses.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFFERED IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 672 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026 REGARDING "MEASURES TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE".

Major schemes/programmes of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare:

1. National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)
2. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm
3. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds
4. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)
5. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
6. Soil Health & Fertility (SH&F)
7. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
8. Agroforestry
9. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
10. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
11. National Bamboo Mission
12. National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
13. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region
14. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)
15. Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
16. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
17. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
18. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/ Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)
19. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
20. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)
21. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
22. Namo Drone Didi
23. Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)
24. Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (AgriSURE)
25. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
26. Digital Agriculture Mission
27. Crop Diversification Programme(CDP)
28. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Detailed Project Report (RKVY-DPR)
29. Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana
30. Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses

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