

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 69**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017

**PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURISTS**

\*69. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण  
½â"âè  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken measures to identify the major problems of agriculturists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve these problems;
- (c) whether quality seeds are out of reach of majority of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers, mainly because of their exorbitant prices and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures taken to provide good quality seeds to small and marginal farmers at fair prices; and
- (e) the average holding of farmers in the country, State/UT-wise along with the action taken to educate small farmers about the benefits of co-operative farming in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण ½â"âè (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017.**

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. To mitigate the distress of the farmers, the Government has in the recent past shifted its approach from production centeredness to farmers' income centeredness. In the Union Budget 2016-17, the Finance Minister put forth "Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare: with focus on doubling farmers' income in six years" as one of the nine distinct pillars in the agenda to "transform India". In order to achieve the target of doubling the income of farmers by March 2022 a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare for the following aspects:

- i) To study the current income level of farmers/ agricultural labourers
- ii) To measure the historical growth rate of the current income level
- iii) To determine the needed growth rate to double the income of farmers/agricultural labourers by the year 2021-22
- iv) To consider and recommend various strategies to be adopted to accomplish (iii) above
- v) To recommend an institutional mechanism to review and monitor implementation to realise the goal
- vi) To examine any other related issue.

For the present, strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. To this end, Department is implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz.

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- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea which is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea and imported urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) envisages onboarding of at least 585 markets on a common e-platform which would help the farmer to get better prices for his produce.
- (vi) The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme addresses all shortcomings of in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks, in specified instances.

(vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

Agriculture is a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Several schemes as stated above are under implementation. In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

MSP is also notified for both Kharif & Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs & Prices (CACP). The Commission collects & analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum

Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production

(c) & (d): No, Madam. The availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for the year 2016-17 is 380.29 lakh qtl. against the demand of 353.48 lakh qtls. as reported by the States. The Government of India is assisting the State Governments and seed producing agencies for seed related activities through various ongoing schemes/programmes of the Department including National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) etc. The details of financial assistance available/provided to farmers including small and marginal farmers for production and distribution of seeds under various existing crop development programmes/schemes implemented by the States is at Annexure-I.

(e): State/UT-wise average holding of farmers in the country is available at Annexure-II. A multi-tiered extension strategy with a blend of various extension and outreach initiatives is being followed under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE), which is one of the four Sub-Missions under National Mission of Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) so as to empower farmers with the latest knowledge and information in agriculture and allied sectors. These are Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension

Reforms (ATMA), Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres, Kisan Call Centres, Information dissemination through Agri Fairs, Kisan SMS Portal, Capacity building components under “Extension Support to Central Institutes/ DOE”, Training Courses(MTCs), Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), Farmers Capacity Assessment & Certification(FCAC) and in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI).

**Annexure-I**

**Statement referred to in reply to Part (c) & (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question NO. 69 regarding Problems of Agriculturists reply on 07.02.2017**

**Details of Assistance/Subsidy for seed production and distribution provided under various existing Schemes/Programmes implemented by States**

Sl. No.	Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1.	National Food Security Mission(NFSM)	Rice	a) Rs.5000/- per quintal or 50% of seeds cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed distribution. b) Rs.10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties certified seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Wheat	Rs.10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Pulses	Rs.2500/- per quintal or 50% of cost whichever is less for certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Coarse cereals-HYVs seed	HYVs Rs.1500/- per quintal or 50% of cost whichever is less for HYVs certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Hybrid seed	Rs. 5000/- per quintal or 50% of cost of seeds whichever is less for Hybrid coarse cereal certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Commercial Crops-Jute based cropping system	<b>Seed production</b> a) Production of breeder seed @Rs.20000/ql. b) Production of certified Seeds 50% of the cost limited to Rs.120/- per kg for foundation seed production. c) Rs.50/- per kg for certified seed production. d) Rs.5500/ql. for certified seed produced by State Department of Agriculture, State Agricultural Universities, KVKs, SSCs, NSC and SSCA.
		Seed Village Programme and Production of seed in Govt. Farms	
2	Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)	Commercial Crop – Sugarcane	Assistance for breeder seed production @Rs.40000/ha.(Rs.34000 for inputs and Rs.6000 for contingency) to SAUs, ICAR and Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI) Production of tissue culture raised plantlets/ seedling @Rs.3.5 per seedling.
		Rice and Wheat	Distribution of seeds a) Rs.5000/- per quintal or 50% of seeds cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed distribution. b) Rs.10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties certified seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Rice and Wheat	Production of seeds The assistance for production of seeds @ Rs. 1,000 per qtl. for HYVs of paddy and wheat and Rs. 5,000 per qtl.for paddy hybrid for less than 10 years old varieties from the year 2015-16. Out of this, 75% amount of subsidy is meant for farmers and 25% to seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure including certification cost.

3.	National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)	All oilseeds, Hybrid seeds Oil Palm Sprouts Cultivation cost as assistance for gestation period for oil palm.	<p>a) Full cost for purchase of Breeder Seed of oilseeds from ICAR/SAUs etc.</p> <p>b) 50% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs. 25 per Kg. of certified seeds except sesame which are not older than 10 years for distribution and Rs. 5000/- per quintal for hybrids and variety of sesame not older than 15 years.</p> <p>c) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties/hybrids which are less than 10 years. (Implementing agency NSC /NAFED/KRIBHCO etc).</p> <p>d) 85% of cost of planting material with a ceiling of Rs. 8000/ha. for entire land holding of farmers for oil palm.</p> <p>e) 50% cost during gestation period for 4 years with ceiling of Rs. 16000/ per ha. for oil palm.</p>
		Assistance for production of Foundation Seeds	Rs. 1000 per quintal for all varieties / hybrids released during last 10 years and additional assistance of Rs. 100/quintal on the varieties /Hybrids released in last 5 years. 75% of subsidy amount is meant for farmers and 25% for seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure towards certification and production etc. (SDAs/NSC/ NAFED/ KRIBHCO/ IFFCO/HIL/IFFDC/Central Multi State Cooperatives such as NCCF)
		Assistance for production of Certified Seeds	Rs. 1000 per quintal for all varieties / hybrids released during last 10 years and additional assistance of Rs.100/- quintal on the varieties. Hybrids released in last 5 years, 75% of subsidy amount is meant for farmers and 25% for seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure towards certification and production etc. (SDAs/NSC/NAFED /KRIBHCO /IFFCO/HIL/IFFDC/Central Multi State Cooperatives such as NCCF)
4.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)	All Crops	All activities including Seed Infrastructure
5.	National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)-Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP)	Seed Village Programme - All Agricultural Crops (60% GOI and 40% State Share)	<p>a. Distribution of Seeds To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution of foundation / certified seeds @ 50% cost of the seeds for Cereals crops and 60% for oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops is provided for 1 acre of area per farmer for production of quality seeds.</p> <p>b. Farmers Training- Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs.15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.</p> <p>c. Seed treating/dressing drums - Financial assistance for treating seeds @ Rs.3500 per seed treating drum of 20Kg capacity and Rs. 5000 per drum of 40Kg capacity.</p> <p>d. Storage bins To encourage farmers to develop storage capacity of appropriate quality, financial assistance is provided to farmers for purchasing Seed Storage bins. The rate of assistance is as under. @33% for SC/ST farmers for 10 qtls. capacity Rs.1500</p>



			<p>@33% for SC/ST farmers for 20 qtls. capacity Rs.3000          @25% for General farmers for 10 qtls. capacity Rs.1000          @25% for General farmers for 20 qtls. capacity Rs.2000</p>
		<p>Certified Seed Production of oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops through Seed Village (60% GOI and 40% State Share)</p>	<p>A Distribution of Seeds- financial assistance for distribution of foundation seeds @ 75% cost of the seeds of oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops is provided to the farmers.          Farmers Training - Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs.15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.          Certification Charges- 50% Seed Certification charges maximum of Rs.600/ha or actual whichever is less for certification of seeds produced under the programme.          Seed processing and seed storage godowns-Assistance is provided to establish seed processing and prefabricated or other type of seed storage godowns 150 sqm. @ Rs.10000 per sqm. to process and store 200 MT capacity for each seed village.          Financial assistance of Rs.7.56 lakh is available for seed processing machinery and supporting equipments etc.</p>
6.	<p>Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)</p> <p>Seed production for vegetables and Spices</p>	<p>Open pollinated crops</p> <p>Hybrid seeds</p> <p>Seed infrastructure</p>	<p>@ Rs. 35,000/ha - For public sector 100%, for private sector 35% in general areas and 50% in NE &amp; Himalayan States, Tribal Sub Plans (TSP) areas, Andaman &amp; Nicobar &amp; Lakshadweep Islands, limited to 5 ha. Output target of seed for each crop will be fixed by the individual state.</p> <p>@ Rs. 1.50 lakh/ha- For public sector 100%. For private sector 35% in general areas and 50% in NE &amp; Himalayan States, TSP areas, Andaman &amp; Nicobar &amp; Lakshadweep Islands, limited to 5 ha. Output target of seed for each crop will be fixed by the individual state for each beneficiary, before releasing funds.          Import of planting material Rs. 100.00 lakh -100% of cost for State Govt. / PSUs, as project based activity.          Seed infrastructure (for handling, processing, packing, storage etc. of seeds meant for use as seed material for cultivation of horticulture crops)          @Rs. 200.00 lakh- 100% of cost to public sector          For private sector, credit linked back end subsidy @ 50% of cost of project.</p>

## Annexure-II

Table 23: State-wise Distribution of Average size per holding- All Social Groups

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	Gender	Average size per holding (in ha.)					
			Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	All Size Groups
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	A & N Islands	M	0.45	1.43	2.62	4.35	15.61	1.76
		F	0.41	1.44	2.65	4.27	-	1.77
		T	0.44	1.43	2.63	4.34	36.88	1.85
2	Andhra Pradesh	M	0.44	1.42	2.65	5.57	14.89	1.13
		F	0.44	1.40	2.58	5.49	14.64	0.94
		T	0.44	1.41	2.63	5.56	15.50	1.08
3	Arunachal Pradesh	M	0.58	1.35	2.76	5.55	14.82	3.67
		F	0.52	1.31	2.74	5.52	14.14	2.72
		T	0.55	1.34	2.76	5.54	14.90	3.51
4	Assam	M	0.42	1.38	2.69	5.14	16.78	1.00
		F	0.48	1.43	2.72	5.19	16.33	1.23
		T	0.42	1.38	2.69	5.15	68.11	1.10
5	Bihar	M	0.25	1.25	2.59	5.08	13.71	0.40
		F	0.25	1.26	2.59	5.13	12.31	0.37
		T	0.25	1.25	2.59	5.09	14.45	0.39
6	Chandigarh	M	0.47	1.43	2.83	5.74	11.08	1.33
		F	0.41	1.41	3.30	4.80	-	0.92
		T	0.46	1.43	2.86	5.70	11.08	1.29
7	Chhattisgarh	M	0.44	1.42	2.68	5.72	16.23	1.40
		F	0.41	1.42	2.66	5.66	16.02	1.06
		T	0.44	1.42	2.68	5.71	16.30	1.36
8	D & N Haveli	M	0.51	1.38	2.77	5.79	15.10	1.36
		F	0.49	1.33	2.76	5.56	16.23	1.44
		T	0.51	1.37	2.77	5.74	15.46	1.38
9	Daman & Diu	M	0.23	1.36	2.54	5.91	24.47	0.37
		F	0.23	1.34	2.62	6.22	10.71	0.37
		T	0.23	1.36	2.56	6.27	19.97	0.38
10	Delhi	M	0.43	1.35	2.69	5.56	15.19	1.54
		F	0.39	1.24	2.64	5.32	-	0.81
		T	0.42	1.32	2.69	5.56	15.13	1.45
11	Goa	M	0.48	1.78	2.94	6.12	22.37	1.20
		F	0.44	1.83	2.91	6.36	19.46	0.85
		T	0.47	1.79	2.94	6.16	24.15	1.14
12	Gujarat	M	0.49	1.45	2.77	5.71	20.22	2.03
		F	0.48	1.45	2.75	5.73	18.15	1.89
		T	0.49	1.45	2.77	5.72	20.91	2.03
13	Haryana	M	0.46	1.47	2.87	6.09	16.57	2.19
		F	0.45	1.45	2.84	6.04	15.99	2.08
		T	0.46	1.47	2.87	6.09	17.95	2.25
14	Himachal Pradesh	M	0.41	1.40	2.72	5.67	14.49	1.01
		F	0.33	1.39	2.69	5.59	14.63	0.66
		T	0.41	1.40	2.72	5.67	15.45	0.99

15	Jammu & Kashmir	M	0.35	1.41	2.68	5.41	13.72	0.63
		F	0.32	1.35	2.64	5.39	12.12	0.45
		T	0.35	1.40	2.68	5.43	22.34	0.62
16	Jharkhand	M	0.41	1.38	2.75	5.64	15.20	1.20
		F	0.42	1.37	2.67	5.44	14.90	0.87
		T	0.41	1.38	2.74	5.63	15.35	1.17
17	Karnataka	M	0.49	1.41	2.68	5.69	14.12	1.61
		F	0.43	1.41	2.66	5.65	14.59	1.28
		T	0.48	1.41	2.68	5.69	14.71	1.55
18	Kerala	M	0.14	1.57	2.80	5.28	25.12	0.22
		F	0.12	1.56	2.77	5.39	17.90	0.16
		T	0.13	1.57	2.79	5.32	64.58	0.22
19	Lakshadweep	M	0.18	1.37	2.51	6.15	10.00	0.27
		F	0.18	1.30	2.28	6.84	-	0.22
		T	0.17	1.36	2.50	6.11	24.00	0.27
20	Madhya Pradesh	M	0.49	1.42	2.73	5.77	15.72	1.82
		F	0.48	1.41	2.68	5.64	14.15	1.41
		T	0.49	1.42	2.73	5.76	15.77	1.78
21	Maharashtra	M	0.47	1.42	2.68	5.62	15.62	1.47
		F	0.48	1.40	2.61	5.55	15.05	1.26
		T	0.47	1.42	2.67	5.62	15.96	1.44
22	Manipur	M	0.53	1.29	2.50	4.85	11.00	1.15
		F	0.44	1.02	2.17	4.38	-	0.87
		T	0.52	1.28	2.48	4.86	11.00	1.14
23	Meghalaya	M	0.48	1.33	2.79	5.66	13.71	1.38
		F	0.40	1.32	2.80	5.69	22.98	1.35
		T	0.45	1.33	2.79	5.67	16.48	1.37
24	Mizoram	M	0.61	1.27	2.41	5.11	15.09	1.16
		F	0.55	1.26	2.54	5.35	13.00	1.01
		T	0.60	1.27	2.42	5.13	15.09	1.14
25	Nagaland	M	0.51	1.14	2.57	6.21	17.45	6.13
		F	0.53	1.11	2.64	5.72	18.98	5.16
		T	0.51	1.13	2.58	6.17	17.57	6.02
26	Odisha	M	0.57	1.63	2.95	5.99	17.89	1.03
		F	0.53	1.62	2.92	6.02	17.05	0.96
		T	0.57	1.63	2.95	5.99	23.72	1.04
27	Puducherry	M	0.38	1.47	2.89	5.67	13.57	0.69
		F	0.23	1.42	2.61	5.39	18.67	0.39
		T	0.35	1.46	2.86	5.72	16.90	0.66
28	Punjab	M	0.62	1.38	2.64	5.74	14.69	3.77
		F	0.57	1.37	2.53	5.76	14.05	2.73
		T	0.61	1.38	2.64	5.74	14.75	3.77
29	Rajasthan	M	0.49	1.43	2.83	6.14	17.38	3.11
		F	0.48	1.42	2.80	6.08	16.35	2.44
		T	0.49	1.43	2.83	6.14	17.45	3.07

30	Sikkim	M	0.36	1.20	2.49	5.41	14.30	1.40
		F	0.35	1.22	2.62	5.04	18.86	1.31
		T	0.37	1.20	2.49	5.44	15.77	1.42
31	Tamil Nadu	M	0.37	1.39	2.70	5.63	15.47	0.81
		F	0.36	1.38	2.68	5.59	15.52	0.68
		T	0.37	1.39	2.70	5.63	20.13	0.80
32	Tripura	M	0.28	1.38	2.52	5.08	13.61	0.50
		F	0.26	1.36	2.50	4.75	11.00	0.42
		T	0.28	1.38	2.52	5.07	14.29	0.49
33	Uttar Pradesh	M	0.39	1.40	2.72	5.52	14.44	0.77
		F	0.35	1.37	2.69	5.37	14.17	0.58
		T	0.39	1.40	2.72	5.52	15.01	0.76
34	Uttarakhand	M	0.44	1.43	2.71	5.45	14.87	0.90
		F	0.45	1.45	2.68	5.22	18.60	0.76
		T	0.44	1.43	2.71	5.45	23.11	0.89
35	West Bengal	M	0.50	1.59	2.73	4.81	11.25	0.75
		F	0.35	1.38	2.57	4.62	-	0.44
		T	0.49	1.59	2.73	4.85	316.20	0.77
36	All India	M	0.39	1.43	2.72	5.76	16.48	1.18
		F	0.36	1.40	2.66	5.68	15.83	0.93
		T	0.39	1.42	2.71	5.76	17.38	1.15

**Abbreviation:**

**M Male**

**F Female**

**T Total (includes institutional holdings also)**

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