

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 499
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2017

REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE

499. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to reform agriculture as well as strengthen the agriculture trade;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): The Government has initiated various steps to bring in reforms in the agriculture sector. A few are as follows:

- (i) It has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not curtailed or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. It is targeted to increase the area coverage to 30% by 2016-17, 40% by 2017-18 and 50% by 2018-19.
- (ii) In order to create competitive, transparent, efficient and barrier free agricultural marketing system with accessible and robust market structure in the country, DAC&FW has formulated and released a new holistic model Act namely "The ----- State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017" in April this year. This model APLM Act, 2017, inter-alia, provides for legal framework for development of State level single unified agriculture market, private wholesale market, farmer-consumer market, direct integration of farmers with end buyers. This model Act also provides for declaration of warehouses/ cold storages as market sub-yards, rationalization of market fee/ commission charges and de-regulation of marketing of fruits & vegetables, etc.

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Further, with a view to provide remunerative prices to farmers in a transparent manner, the Government is implementing National Agriculture Market Scheme popularly known as e-NAM scheme w.e.f. 14.04.2016. The scheme aims to create a web based unified agri-marketing portal for inter market and inter-state trading of agri-produce. As per approved scheme, 585 markets across the country are to be integrated by March, 2018. As on 14.12.2017, 470 markets across 14 States/UTs have been integrated with e-NAM portal.

(iii) To increase investments in agri infrastructure, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-a scheme of the Govt.), guidelines have been modified making it mandatory to spend 50% of allocation on production and post-production related infrastructure.

(iv) Promotion of agri enterprises has been initiated by amending the RKVY guidelines

(v) To strengthen agriculture trade, at present there is no quantitative restriction on export of principal agriculture commodities (except mustard oil, rapeseed oil and sunflower oil).

Further, 3% to 7% reward is available under Merchandized Export from India Scheme (MEIS) of Department of Commerce of most of the agricultural produce to promote their export'.
