

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MARCH, 2018

PROMOTION OF FPOS

1660. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to attract young farmers towards the formation and promotion of the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to carry out agribusiness in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the monetary support provided to the States for the promotion of FPOs during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any assistance/support has been provided to FPOs by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in various districts in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen agriculture based livelihood through FPOs in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. Government of India through Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), a registered society under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, is promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by mobilizing the farmers including young farmers, helping them in registering as company and giving them training for their sustainability. So far, SFAC has helped 707 FPOs in registering as companies. Further to this, SFAC provides matching equity grant subject to maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakh per Farmer Producer Company. SFAC also supports FPOs through Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme, which provides a Credit Guarantee cover to Eligible Lending Institutions to enable to provide collateral free credit. Under Venture Capital Assistance Scheme, an interest free loan is provided to FPCs/entrepreneurs by SFAC to meet shortfall in the capital requirement for implementation of the agribusiness project. FPOs can also avail financial assistance under various schemes of the Government of India such as Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) Scheme. Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State Governments can also seek financial assistance for formation of FPOs.

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In addition to above, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is also promoting FPOs in the States. They provide grant support to existing FPOs towards capacity building, market linkages etc. along with the Credit support of business development, under support of NABARD, so far 2154 FPOs have been formed by NABARD during last 3 years.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is providing technical support to FPOs through Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the respective districts in the form of capacity development of its members of various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors including production technologies and value addition and processing.

Furthermore, under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) scheme of Ministry of Rural Development, promotion of 'Producers' Enterprises has been taken up for agriculture, dairy and Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) commodities.
