

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1694
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH March, 2018

FACILITIES TO FARMERS

1694. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

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

- (a) whether is it the fact that most of the facilities provided by the Government are benefitting Agro Traders, Agro Processors whereas the grassroot level farmers are hardly getting any benefits from the Government Schemes;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has plans to educate farmers to avail the maximum benefits from the Government bodies; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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

(a): No, Madam. The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Most of the schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes such as:-

- (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 fertilizer application and thus save money of farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.
- (v) In order to provide an alternative to farmers for marketing avenues, National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) was launched on 14.04.2016 in 8 States viz. Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand

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covering 21 markets. The Scheme envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and will support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country by March 2018. This innovative market process is revolutionizing agri markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. 466 markets in 13 States have been brought on board so far.

(vi) Government 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.

(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.

(viii) 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).

(b) & (c): Government has been laying special emphasis on dissemination of information and knowledge transfer to the farmers through a series of initiatives like Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Kisan Call Centers, Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centers, Exhibitions/ Fairs etc. Further, a network of 681 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been established by India Council of Agricultural Research to facilitate farmer's access to knowledge and information generated by Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes of the country.

Further, Farmers' training is provided at the local level through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, vocational agricultural schools and field demonstrations. These training classes may be conducted on specific topics like the use of urea or vast topics like packages of practice. The new information that farmers gain through these training sessions makes their daily farming activities much easier. It also leads to an increase in productivity and bigger profits in the long run.

The State Agricultural Universities are major partners in the growth and development of agricultural research and education under the national agricultural research system. Currently, there are 41 State Agricultural Universities in India. These agricultural universities are responsible for research, training and dissemination of agriculture related information in the State. They generate new technologies to increase production, provide degree and certificate programmes in agriculture and help in the transfer of technology by participating in farmer training classes organised by local agricultural bodies.
