

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2805
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018

PRODUCTIVITY OF CROPS

2805. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

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

- (a) whether farmers are poor due to low productivity (yield per hectare) of all major crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for low productivity of agriculture in the country;
- (c) whether the increase in agricultural productivity requires greater investment in farm inputs; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to increase investment, both public and private in agriculture 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) & (b): The low level of income of farmers is attributable inter-alia to low or marginal agricultural land holdings, traditional methods of farming, non-use of quality seeds, poor soil health, low irrigation facilities, access to institutional credit etc which may result in lower productivity & output; to poor farm gate prices realization owing to inadequate access to marketing facilities & post-harvest support services; and inadequate income supplementation from allied sectors. The factors for low productivity of agriculture in the country also owe to stress (moisture, temperature), varied agro-climatic conditions, etc. Several biotic and abiotic stresses also affect crop yields.

(c) & (d): The productivity in agriculture can be enhanced by various factors like the coverage of irrigation, levels of farm mechanization, use of high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers etc. Thus, investment in agriculture sector is of vital importance.

Government of India has taken several steps to channelize greater investment through various schemes in farm inputs, irrigation, marketing, post-harvest management, food processing, capacity building etc. Some of the Schemes/programmes are Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Soil Health Card (SHC), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD), etc.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme is a major scheme for incentivizing States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sectors. RKVY has been approved for continuation for three years i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20 as Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture & allied Sector Rejuvenation i.e. (RKVY-RAFTAAR) which aims at making farming as a remunerative economic activity. The new Guidelines provide for major allocation for creation of production and post-production infrastructure, beside promoting agri-enterprises and incubation facilities.

Moreover, Government has recently approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) and setting up Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) for development of infrastructure in agriculture and allied sector in the country.
