

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3950
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH MARCH, 2018

COST OF CULTIVATION OF SMALL HOLDINGS

3950. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether 69 per cent of farmers have less than one hectare of land, 17 per cent families have one to two hectares of land and 36 per cent of farmers are landless and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the cost of cultivation in comparison to the price of produce due to their small holdings has pushed farmers towards indebtedness;
- (c) if so, the total amount of loan per farmer family as per the survey conducted in the year 2013 in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure zero cost of agriculture and promote cooperative agriculture; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps taken by the Government to make farmers free from indebtedness?

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): The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), conducted a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during NSS 70th round (January – December, 2013) in the rural areas of the country with respect to the agricultural year (July 2012 – June 2013).

As per the survey results, the estimated number of agricultural households in rural India was 90.2 million. About 69 per cent of the agricultural households in rural India were estimated to possess land less than 1.00 hectare. Besides, 17 per cent of agricultural households had land holdings between 1.00 hectare and less than 2.00 hectares. Only 2.6 per cent of the agricultural households were estimated to have land holdings less than 0.01 hectare. Further, at All India level 0.1 per cent of the agricultural households were reported to have not possessed any land at the time of the survey.

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Based on the survey, a statement on percentage distribution of agricultural households by size class of land possessed (in hectare) is placed at Annexure.

(b) & (c): According to the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households, 2013, the average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household was estimated to be approximately about Rs. 47,000/-. However, loans reported in the survey includes all kinds of outstanding loans irrespective of the purpose for which loans were taken. Information on the reasons for the debt was not collected in the survey. Therefore, the results of the survey does not suggest that the cost of cultivation, due to small holdings, in comparison to the price of produce, has pushed farmers towards indebtedness.

(d) & (e): To promote Agriculture, the Government is implementing programmes like, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Neem Coated Urea, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc. Initiatives of the Government to reduce cost of production and raise yield levels include promotion of cluster farming, adoption of modern technologies, Integrated Farming Systems, Soil Health Card, Production and supply of quality seeds, bio pesticides for promoting Integrated Pest Management, etc. To ensure remunerative prices to farmers, several steps like fixing Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural crops, undertaking procurement through designated procurement agencies, implementing e-National Agriculture Market, etc. have been undertaken.

The Government has taken up several initiatives like the Interest Subvention Scheme and the Kisan Credit Card Scheme for strengthening the farm credit delivery system for providing credit at lower rates of interest to support the resource requirements of the agricultural sector. Farmers have also benefited through formation of Joint Liability Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, etc.

Agriculture being a state subject, State Governments are also extending assistance to the farmers through various schemes and programmes.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question
Number 3950 due for answer on 20/03/2018

Percentage Distribution of Agricultural Households by size class of land possessed (ha.) based on the results of Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households, 2013

S.No.	Size class of land possessed (hectare)	Percentage of agricultural households
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	< 0.01	2.6
2	0.01 - 0.40	31.9
3	0.41 - 1.00	34.9
4	1.01 - 2.00	17.1
5	2.01 - 4.00	9.4
6	4.01 - 10.00	3.7
7	10.00 +	0.4
8	All Sizes	100

Source: NSS Report No. 569: Some Characteristics of Agricultural Households in India, NSSO, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
