

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5797
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD APRIL, 2018

PROMOTION OF AGRI-BUSINESS

5797. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote agri-business and incubation facilities in rural areas; and
- (b) the schemes that have been launched to encourage farmers to adopt income supplementing activities in the rural areas?

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): In order to promote agri-business and incubation facilities in the country including rural areas, the Government of India has released a new model “The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017” on 24th April, 2017 for its adoption by States/UTs. The provisions therein provides for alternative marketing channels to facilitate farmers in marketing their produce at competitive & remunerative prices. Further, the Government is formulating a progressive, holistic and facilitative model Contract Farming Act, which is in the final stage of its drafting. Under the draft model Act, provisions have been made *inter-alia* for integrating food processors with farmers with an aim to ensure better price realisation to the farmers for their produce besides reducing post-harvest losses, and incentivising the private sector processors to invest in processing activities.

The Government through, Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) and Coir Udyami Yojana (CUY) is promoting agri-business and incubation facilities in rural areas.

Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), small and marginal women farmers are organized into producers’ collectives for agriculture and dairy related businesses. This enables them to benefit from collective action and the economies of scale.

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Under Mahila Kisan Sashkatikaran Pariyojana, a sub-component of DAY-NRLM, and also through other livelihoods interventions under the programme women farmers are encouraged to diversify their livelihoods by taking up livestock and non-timber forest produce based activities and small non-farm enterprises, wherever such opportunities are available. In addition, Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is being implemented as another sub-component of DAY-NRLM with the objective of helping rural poor to come out of poverty by helping them set-up sustainable enterprises.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is a big step of the Government towards doubling farmers income, providing better prices to farmers, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas.

Venture Capital Assistance is also provided by the Government for setting up of agribusiness projects and thereby providing assured market to producers for increasing rural income & employment.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its network of 690 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country, is organizing demonstrations, training programs and skill development programs for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youth and in-service extension personnel. The new technologies generated by ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities are shared by KVKs to farmers through line departments of Agriculture in the states.

Further, ICAR, through “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture” (ARYA) programme, is attracting and empowering the youth in rural areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts.
