

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1008
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2018

IMPEDIMENT IN AGRICULTURE GROWTH

1008. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the institutional barrier comprising governance, the quality of public systems, and economic policies has become the most serious impediment to agriculture growth in the Country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Import liberalization has had a strong dampening effect on the prices of several crops and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the agricultural distress across the Country is causing a widespread systemic crisis and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the suicides among farming community are on the rise year by year and 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 GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a): Agricultural production and productivity in the country has been generally increasing with the exception of the years affected by drought, floods, other natural calamities, etc. As only 48% of the net sown area is under irrigation, growth in agriculture is affected by rainfall and other agro-climatic conditions. Government has been implementing various schemes namely National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm, Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing, Sub- Mission on Agriculture Mechanisation, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana etc. for welfare of the farmers, to mitigate the risks associated and to increase growth of agriculture sector in the country.

As a result of the initiatives taken by the Government, production of foodgrains (including both cereals and pulses) has increased significantly from 252.02 million tons in 2014-15 to 279.51 million tonnes during 2017-18 in the country as per the third Advance Estimates.

(b) & (c): Domestic prices of crops are influenced by several factors, mainly domestic demand and supply situation, weather conditions, global availability and price trends etc. The prices of most crops are largely domestically determined and there is a mechanism to calibrate policies to safeguard and protect the interests of the farmers through modulation of tariffs. India has one of the highest agriculture import tariffs to protect the farmers/ cultivations/domestic industry against any cheap and abnormal import.

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To ensure that farmers get better remuneration for their produce, Government has announced its historic decision to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production for kharif crops 2018-19. Government has also taken several steps which includes setting up of procurement centers keeping in view the potential in the areas; creating awareness among the farmers of the MSP operations; encouraging decentralized procurement; adopting e-procurement system; engaging private players in certain States to participate in procurement operations, implementing e-National Agriculture Market, promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) etc.

Further, Government implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at MSPs. In 2017-18, procurement in pulses and oilseeds have been significantly stepped up on the basis of States' proposals in this regard. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the PSS are also undertaken. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

Apart from this, to achieve the target of doubling the income of farmers by 2022, Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve the same.

(d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides are available upto 2015 on its website. As per the ADSI Reports for the years 2014, 2015 and unpublished provisional data as provided by NCRB for the year 2016, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country are 12360, 12602 and 11370 respectively.
