

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1074
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2018

PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE SECTOR

1074. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE **‡ãðŠãäÓã** एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâããè be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due priority is not given to the agriculture sector in the country, so far and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to promote the agriculture sector to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the small scale industries in the agriculture sector is playing an important role in boosting local income/economy and enhancing the prospects of the farming sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in the interest of the farmers in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

‡ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâããè ¼ã ½ãñâ Àã¾ã ½ãâããè (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): No Madam. Agriculture plays a vital role in the country's economy and given the importance of agriculture sector, the Government has substantially enhanced the budget allocation for the agriculture sector. For the period 2009-2014, the budget for agriculture was Rs.1,21,082 crore. During 2014-2019, the allocation has been enhanced by 74.5 per cent to Rs.2,11,694.

(b): Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing various programmes/ schemes to improve the farm productivity, reduce cost of cultivation and ensure remunerative prices on farm produce, thereby enhancing farmers' income and strengthening the rural economy, which helps to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas.

(c): Agro produce based industries, and those engaged in manufacture of inputs of agricultural production, and farm implements as well as providing various services for farming activities have preponderance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and therefore, have a major role in boosting the farming sector, and improving the local economy.

(d): The focus of the Government is on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC), Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

In addition, the Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3 % prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment. Further, 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).

Further, in the budget for 2018-19 the Government had announced that MSP for all unannounced Kharif crops will be 1.5 times the cost of production. Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 04.07.2018 has approved the increase in the MSPs for all Kharif crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
