

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3423**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018

**PARTICIPATION OF FARMERS IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

3423. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE †ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ"ããè  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any effective steps have been taken by the Government to increase the participation of farmers in other agriculture related commercial activities apart from farming and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the manner in which farmers' income is likely to be doubled without ensuring the remunerative prices for their produces and the time by which the farmers' income will be doubled?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

†ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ"ããè ½ãñâ Åã•¾ã ½ãâ"ããè ( SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): A farmer's income is a basket of earnings from agriculture (including horticulture), allied activities like dairy, livestock, poultry, fishery etc. and ancillary activities like beekeeping etc. Apart from these farm incomes, he also earns from other activities like wage labour, off-farm activities etc. The Government is promoting various allied activities for enhancing the income of farmers viz;

(i) "Har Medh Par Ped" initiative launched during 2016-17 to encourage tree plantation on farm land, along with crops/ cropping system. Implementation of the scheme has been started in those States where liberalized transit regulations have been notified. Other States are also being motivated to notify liberalized transit regulations. Agroforestry will not only help in increasing soil organic carbon but also in creating additional source of income to farmers.

(ii) National Bamboo Mission has been announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 for value chain based holistic development of this sector as a supplement to farm income.

(iii) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.

(iv) Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been implemented to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.

(v) National Livestock Mission has been implemented to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.

(vi) Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.

(b): The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022.

At present, thirteen draft volumes of 'Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022' prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

The Government has been reorienting the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness which goes beyond achieving merely the targeted production. The income approach focuses on achieving high productivity, reduced cost of cultivation and remunerative price on the produce, with a view to earn higher profits from farming. Various initiatives by way of schemes and policy reforms have been rolled out in consonance with this approach.

In order to improve the marketing system for farmers to get better remunerative prices for their produce and for improving their bargaining power, Government has taken the following steps:-

(i) Launched e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) and e-trading platform to facilitate farmers to realise better price through online, transparent competitive bidding system.

(ii) Released model "The State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017" (APLM Act). Model APLM Act guides the States to amend their marketing laws to promote a competitive, efficient markets;

(iii) Released model "Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming & Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018" for adoption by the States/ UTs. Contract Farming Act on adoption by the States aims at facilitating, mitigation of price risk and market uncertainties for the contracting sponsors including farmers.

(iv) Development and up-gradation of rural haats as Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). GrAMs would provide better access to market & marketing, while helping to reduce wastages and marketing costs.

(v) Promoting collectivisation of farmers through formation of FPOs, Cooperatives etc. to improve their economy of scale and improving collective bargaining power of farmers.

Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season. This decision of the Government is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19.

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