

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 105
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH DECEMBER, 2018

FARM POLICIES

105. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the farmers are protesting against anti farmer policies of the Government, if so, the details of the protest in various States and the action taken thereon;
- (b) the details of the action taken by the Government to provide support prices for the agriculture produce;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give fertilizers and seeds to the farmers at subsidised price and if so, the details of the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to declare moratorium on the agricultural loans and initiate action to write off the pending loans and if so, the details of the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the details of the action taken for providing financial assistance to the farmers and for establishing a marketing system for selling of agricultural produce at a reasonable and good price?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Lok Sangharsh Morcha (LSM) has organised a March from 21-22 November, 2018 in Mumabi, Maharashtra, All Indian Kisan Sabha (AIKS) & All India Agriculture Workers Union (AIAWU) organised 'Long March' from 28 to 29 November, 2018 in Kolkata, West Bengal and All India Kisan Sangharsh Co-ordination Committee organised Mega farmers' rally on 29 - 30 November, 2018 in Delhi over demands including Remunerative price for agricultural produce, complete loan waiver, provision of employment for 200 days under MGNREGA, ownership rights over forest land, etc.

(b): Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all notified Kharif & Rabi Crops and other commercial crops for the season 2018-19 with a return of atleast 50 percent over cost of production. This decision of the Government was a historic one as it redeemed the promise of fixing the MSPs atleast at a level of 50 per cent return over cost of production as announced in the Union Budget 2018-19.

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(c): The following components/ schemes under Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Materials (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) are in operation for the welfare of farmers in the country.

Seed Village Programme: To upgrade the quality of farmer's saved seeds, this component is in operation under Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP). Under this programme, the financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified seeds at 50% cost of the seeds for cereal crops and 60% for pulses, oilseeds, fodder and green manure crops for production of quality seeds is available for one acre per farmer.

Certified Seed Production of Pulses, Oilseeds, Fodder and Green Manure crops through Seed Village: In order to encourage the farmers for the taking up certified seed production of Pulses, Oilseeds, Fodder & Green Manure crops in the country, the financial assistance @75% for distribution of foundation seeds of these crops is available to the farmers under component Certified Seed Production of Pulses, Oilseeds, Fodder and Green Manure crops through Seed Village of Sub Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP). This new component has initiated during the year 2014-15.

(d): RBI has issued master directions on relief measures to be provided by lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities including drought which, inter alia, include identification of beneficiaries, extending fresh loans and restructuring of existing loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. The benchmark for restructuring of loans has been reduced from 50% to 33% crop loss, in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. Further, in terms of RBI's Master Circular on Asset Classification, banks are free to restructure and extend the repayment period of loans/ give stress dispensation scheme to any category of borrowers which have come under stress as per their commercial judgment and Board approved loan policy within the broad prudential guidelines prescribed by RBI.

(e): In order to establish a marketing system for farmers, the Government is implementing National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme for transparent price discovery for remunerative prices for the farmers for their produce through competitive online bidding system. So far, 585 wholesale regulated markets of 16 States and 02 UTs have been integrated with e-NAM platform. Under the scheme, apart from providing technical support, financial assistance upto Rs. 75 lakh per mandi for electronic weighing scale, computer IT equipments, assaying equipments, cleaning/ sorting/ grading equipments and bio- composting unit is also provided to States/Union Territories (UTs). So far, Rs. 305.85 crore have been released to States/UTs under e-NAM scheme.

Further, In order to provide better marketing facilities to the farmers, the Government has released a new model "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017" in April 2017 for its adoption by States/ UTs. The provisions therein provides for alternative marketing channels such as setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards to facilitate farmers in marketing their produce at competitive & remunerative prices.

In order to optimise the use of scarce resources and mitigate the uncertainty in price and marketing, the Government has formulated and released a progressive and facilitative Model Act "The ---State/ UT Agricultural Produce & Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018" in May, 2018 for its adoption by the states/Union Territories (UTs). The aforesaid Model Contract Farming Act covers the entire value and supply chain from pre-production to post harvest marketing including services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock.
