

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1590
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 2019

FARMERS' AGITATION

1590. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
DR. K. GOPAL:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the farmers have threatened to stop all supplies to cities and towns and have demanded for putting an end to farm indebtedness and for guaranteeing remunerative minimum support price for all agricultural products;
- (b) whether it is also true that the farmers organisation has demanded for taking up two private members bills in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the dharna of the farmers made on 2.10.2018 seeking redressal of their demands like writing off their crop loans, implementation of Swaminathan Committee recommendations etc. and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is true that a section of farmers' groups has announced four months of agitations ending with a march to Delhi, in protest against the Government's minimum support prices for kharif crops and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is also true that MSP hike was based on a lower calculation than what was recommended by the Swaminathan Commission and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to appease the farmers and do justice to them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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

(a) to (e): From time to time, some farmers and farmers' organizations have been making certain demands like waiver of farm loans, implementation of Swaminathan Committee recommendations pertaining to fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural produce and guaranteed income of farmers and other agricultural policies, which is taken due note of by the Government.

Two Private Member's Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 2018. The first Bill titled 'The Farmers' Right to Guaranteed Remunerative Minimum Support Prices for Agricultural Commodities Bill, 2018' proposes provisions regarding, inter-alia, Guaranteed Remunerative Minimum Support Prices (GRMSP) for Agricultural Commodities with minimum 50% profit margin over comprehensive cost of production upon sale of agricultural commodities, and to constitute an autonomous body to be known as 'Central Farmers Agricultural Costs & Remunerative Price Guarantee Commission' for the recommendation and implementation the GRMSP for agricultural commodities as well as to constitute a 'State Farmers Agricultural Costs & Remunerative Price Guarantee Commission' for the recommendation and implementation the GRMSP for all agricultural commodities which will recommend to the Central Commission on GRMSP.

The second Bill titled 'Farmers' Freedom from Indebtedness Bill, 2018' proposes provisions, inter-alia, to confer a right on indebted farmers to obtain immediate one time complete waiver of outstanding loan, right to obtain production loans from institutional creditors at subsidized rates and constitution of a National Farmers' Distress and Disaster Relief Commission and State Farmers' Distress and Disaster Relief Commissions with power to pass awards and recommend appropriate measures for the relief to farmers in distress and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan has recommended that the MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production. However, when the National Policy of Farmers, 2007 was finalized by the then Government, this recommendation of providing 50 percent returns over cost of production was not included. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in his Report on NCF had discussed different dimensions for fixing MSPs, but while finalizing National Policy of Farmers, the then Government had accepted the current established methods.

(f): Government has increased the MSPs for all mandated crops with a return of atleast 50 percent over cost of production for the season 2018-19. This decision of the Government was a historic one as it fulfills the commitment to the farmers to provide atleast 50 percent return over cost of production for the first time for all mandated crops.

Further, to provide an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers, the Government has launched a new Central Sector scheme, namely, **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**. This scheme is 100% funded by Government of India. Under the Scheme, all Small and Marginal landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support @Rs.6000/- per annum. The income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three installments in a financial year. The benefit under the scheme shall be admissible for transfer w.e.f 01.12.2018. PM-KISAN would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmers families, but would also meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season.

The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. For the said purpose, the Government has taken a number of measures. The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes such as Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), "**Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan**" (PM-AASHA), etc. to meet this objective.