

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.351
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019

PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE

351. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any step to promote agriculture in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has given training to farmers on scientific way of agriculture and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the farmers were given information about such training, 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 PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): 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.

Several initiatives have already been implemented among each of the above mention strategies which inter-alia include:

- (i) In order to provide an alternative to farmers for marketing avenues, support creation of infrastructure, e-marketing platform at national level, ensure better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market', National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) launched on 14.04.2016.
- (ii) Development and up-gradation of existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), electronically linked to e-NAM portal and exempted from regulations of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs),
- (iii) Model Agricultural Produce & Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017, and the Model Agricultural Produce & Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018, in May, 2018, for adoption by State/UTs, and to promote alternative competitive marketing channels for better pricing for farmers, encourage private investment in developing efficient marketing infrastructure and value chain.

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(iv) The Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif & rabi crops for 2018-19 Season which 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.

(v) Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. The increase in MSP will be translated to farmer's income by way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the State Governments.

(vi) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

(vii) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme to ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save input cost of farmers.

(viii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application.

(ix) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.

(x) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) to promote organic farming in the country as cluster approach.

(xi) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1947 Bamboo grown outside forest area has been removed from the definition of trees and a mission have been launched to promote bamboo plantation.

(c) & (d): During the last five years, over 62.88 lakh farmers have been benefitted through "Farmers Training" in different thematic areas. In the planning and implementation of these Training Programs, the Farmers Advisory Committees (FACs) at the Block and District level along with the Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs), Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) and Women Food Security Groups (WFSGs) are closely involved and information is disseminated through them.
