

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1682
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND JULY, 2019

ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE SECTOR

1682. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to compensate the farmers who lost their farming due to natural calamities;
- (b) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that farming has become a loss making occupation due to hike in prices of seeds and fertilizers;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government for ensuring the supply of good quality seeds and fertilizers at reasonable prices;
- (e) the details of action taken by the Government to ensure the supply of various types of seeds in different States considering the special kind of farming in each State; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to introduce subsidy for fertilizers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): In the eventuality of natural calamities, the State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), on receipt of Memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. The financial assistance under SDRF/NDRF in the wake of notified natural disasters is given by way of relief and not for compensation of loss as suffered/claimed

(c) to (e): No, Sir. However, for making available various types of good quality seeds to the farmers at reasonable/subsidized price, the Government is already providing financial assistance/ subsidy to different States and implementing agencies for seed related activities under various ongoing Crop Development Programmes/Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), Mission on Integrated

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Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), Sub Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) etc., which help in enhancing productivity of various crops in the country, including that of special requirement areas.

(f): Subsidy for fertilizers has been a part of fertilizer policy of the Government. Government is making available fertilizers, namely, Urea and 21 grades of Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/ importers. Urea is being provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The Department of Fertilizers is implementing Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme for P&K fertilizers with effect from 01.04.2010. Under the NBS scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis, is provided on each grade of subsidized P&K fertilizers, depending upon its nutrient content. Boron and Zinc are also included under the NBS and are eligible for additional subsidy of Rs 300 per tonne and Rs 500 per tonne respectively. The approved rates of subsidy under the NBS scheme for the year 2018-19 for Nitrogen was Rs. 18.901 per kg, for Phosphorus Rs. 15.216 per kg, whereas for Potash and Sulphur, it was Rs. 11.124 per kg and Rs. 2.722 per kg respectively.
