

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2582
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH JULY, 2019

DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

2582. 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 quality of life of farmers is not satisfactory, if so, the details of the action taken by the Government for ensuring quality of life of farmers;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce science based natural resources and sustainable production and development in agricultural sector and if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce national soil health card system and if so, the details of action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the market reforms required for the development of agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce a policy for procurement and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake development of perspective plans and ensure effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. Also Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/Programmes. The Government has been reorienting the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centric approach as against the earlier production centric policy. This focuses on achieving high productivity, reduced cost of cultivation and remunerative price on the produce, with a view to earning higher profits for the farmers. A list of various interventions taken by the Government at **Annexure-I**.

(b): ICAR has developed water conservation strategies including micro irrigation, cropping system suitable for the various agro climatic zones, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Direct seeded rice DSR), Crop Diversification, laser leveling etc. all of which are being supported by programmatic intervention of DAC&FW including Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) – Per Drop More Crop (PDMC), Soil Health Card (SHC), assistance of resource conservation strategies/tools under National Food Security Mission (NFS), Crop Diversification Program under RKVY, Integrated Farming System (IFM) under Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Organic Farming, Centers of Excellence under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) etc. Development of climatic resilient varieties has enabled record production of cereals, pulses and horticulture produces in the face of climate change. National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) has developed climatic resilient villages in each of 151 identified districts.

A Central Sector Scheme entitled “Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region” (MOVCDNEAR) is implemented for organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country. The scheme aims at development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification and creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative.

(c): Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme is being implemented since 2015 to assist all State Governments to evaluate soil fertility against 12 parameters across the country and issue soil health card to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. Soil sampling is done in 2.5 ha. grids in irrigated areas and 10 ha grids in rainfed areas. The scheme has been successful in judicious use of fertilizers.

10.73 crore Soil Health Card (SHC) in Cycle-I from 2015-17 and 9.82crore SHCs in Cycle – II from 2017-19 have been distributed to farmers.

(d): The Union Government has been advocating progressive agri market reforms which include:

“The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, which provides for progressive agricultural marketing reforms, including setting up markets in private sector, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, de-regulation of fruits and vegetables, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storage as market sub-yards and Market Yards of National importance (MNI) etc. so that more markets are available for farmers to sell their produce for better prices.

The State/Union Territory ‘Agricultural Produce and livestock, Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018’ circulated by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India to States/UTs.

Government is implementing National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme wherein online trading of agriculture commodities is carried out in transparent and competitive manner helping the farmers with better price discovery for their produce, So far, 585 wholesale regulated markets across the country have been integrated with e-NAM platform.

(e): Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government had approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)' in the year 2018. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.

The new Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers and is comprised three components namely Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2582 due for 09.07.2019.

Statement in respect of Part (a) of the Question regarding "Development in Agricultural Sector"

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Most of the schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes such as:-

- (i) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.
- (ii) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (iii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" under which organic farming is being promoted.
- (iv) Initiating market reforms through the State Governments.
- (v) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (vi) Up-gradation of Gramin Haats to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (vii) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (viii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, Government has launched a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.
- (ix) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land with emphasis on value addition and product development.
- (x) Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (xi) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (xii) 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.

- (xiii) Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xiv) National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides total interest subvention up to 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.
- (xvii) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xviii) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.
- (xix) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at Rs. 13.50 lakh crore.
- (xx) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups. About 14.5 crore farmers are expected to be covered under the Scheme.
- (xx) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years. The scheme aims to cover around 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years. It would be a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 years. The Government has approved a budgetary provision of Rs. 10774.50 crore for the scheme till March, 2022.