

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 532
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JUNE, 2019

PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE

532. SHRI B.B. PATIL:

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 methods of agriculture and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the farmers were given information about such training and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertakes 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 is annexed.

(c) & (d): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms' popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme is under implementation since 2005. It is being implemented in 684 districts of 29 states & 3 UTs of the country. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly system in the country with an objective to support State Government's efforts to revitalize the extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers. The extension activities under ATMA include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc. During the year 2018-19, 18,59,231 farmers have been given training under the scheme.

After the Gazette Notification issued by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in July 2015, the DAC & FW has been operationalising skill training courses for rural youth and farmers as per the approved 108 Qualification Packs developed by Agriculture Skill Council of India, through the National Training Institutes, State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR and State Agricultural Universities. During the year 2018-19, 796 skill training courses were conducted with 15,918 participants.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 532 due for 25.06.2019 Statement in respect of Part (a) & (b) of the Question regarding 'Promotion of Agriculture'

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) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (ii) Up-gradation of Gramin Haats to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (iii) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (iv) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.
- (v) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (vi) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" under which organic farming is being promoted.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) 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 of honey and other products as an additional source of income of farmers.
- (xii) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (xiii) 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.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) With a view to provide income support to all farmers 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 instalments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups. About 14.5 crore farmers are expected to be covered under the Scheme.
