

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2154
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH DECEMBER, 2022

KNOWLEDGE TO FARMERS

2154. SHRIMATI MAHUA MOITRA:

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

- (a) the efforts made by the Government to ensure that farmers have data, knowledge and knowhow about what crop to grow on their lands given the soil and weather conditions and market demand and best way to grow it Training and methodology and mechanisation benefits along with ensuring that overuse and incorrect use of fertiliser especially subsidised urea does not take place; and
- (b) the schemes which are available to create cold storage and refrigerated logistics in rural areas to improve yield on crops?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government of India is according high priority for welfare of the farmers and is implementing various schemes viz; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) etc for increasing production and productivity of crops and enhancing the economic condition and livelihood of farmers. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for various inputs such as distribution of improved seeds/hybrids, improved farm implements/machines, water saving devices, plant protection chemicals, soil ameliorants etc. Further, Government of India and states ensure promoting farmers' awareness on judicious, timely and effective use of inputs, adoption of better agronomic practices and improved production technologies etc through crops demonstrations, trainings, extension, capacity building programmes and advisories on farm activities etc by ICAR and stakeholder institutes.

In order to avoid excessive use and to promote balanced and integrated use of fertilizers, Soil Health Card scheme had been introduced in 2015 to assist State Governments to issue Soil health cards to farmers in the country. Soil Health Card

provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. The ICAR also imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects as and when required. Soil health data is available on soil health card portal (<http://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in/>) which is uploaded by States upto farm land holding level in villages.

(b) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture sector throughout the country including setting up of cold storage and refrigerated vehicles for perishable horticulture produce.

Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under RKVY. The states can promote these activities under RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the respective states.

Agri Infra Fund launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package is a medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee support. Under the scheme, Rs.1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for loans up to Rs.2 Crores.

Warehouse Infrastructure Funds (WIF) created in NABARD envisages extension of loans to public and private sectors for construction of Warehouses, cold storages and other cold chain infrastructure.
