

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 72
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

STEPS TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF FARMERS

*72. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has data regarding the farmers whose income has been doubled during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has data regarding the suicide rates amongst farmers during the said period and if so, the details regarding the same, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the steps and the measures taken by the Government to promote the interests of coconut, spice and arecanut farmers in the country;
- (d) whether Spice Research Institute has produced any new varieties of spices in the last few years and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for its adoption;
- (e) whether any new varieties of drought and pest resistant coconut have been produced in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details of the steps taken to make these available to farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 72 FOR 07.02.2023 REGARDING STEPS TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF FARMERS.

(a): The efforts of the Government to double the income of farmers have yielded very positive results. In this regard Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to “Doubling of Farmers Income (DFI)” and recommended strategies to achieve the same. The Committee submitted its final report to the Government in September, 2018 containing the strategy for doubling of farmers’ income through various policies, reforms & programmes. As per the strategy, Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemes for achieving higher incomes for the farmers directly or indirectly. These include:

1. Unprecedented enhancement in budget allocation

In the year 2013-14 the budget allocation of Ministry of Agriculture (including DARE) and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying was only 30223.88 crore. This has increased by more than 4.59 time to Rs. 138920.93 crore in 2022-23. The Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for 2023-24 has announced the budgetary allocation of Rs. 125035 crore for Ministry of Agriculture (including DARE).

2. Income support to farmers through PM KISAN

Launch of PM-KISAN in 2019 -an income support scheme providing Rs. 6000 per year in 3 equal installments. More than Rs. **2.24 lakh crore** has been released so far to more than **11 crore** farmers as of now.

3. Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana (PMFBY)

Six year - PMFBY was launched in 2016 addressing problems of high premium rates for farmers and reduction in sum insured due to capping. In past 6 Years of implementation – 38 crore farmer applications has been enrolled and over 12.37 crore (Provisional) farmer applicants have received claims. During this period nearly Rs. 25,252 crore were paid by farmers as their share of premium against which claims of over Rs. 1,30,015 crore (Provisional) have been paid to them. Thus for every 100 rupees of premium paid by farmers, they have received about Rs. 514 as claims.

4. Institutional credit for agriculture sector

- i. Increased from Rs. 7.3 lakh crore in 2013-14 with a target to reach Rs. 18.5 lakh crore in 2022-23. The Finance Minister in the Budget Speech 2023-24 has announced Institutional Credit of Rs. 20 Lakh crore.
- ii. Benefit of concessional institutional credit through KCC at 4% interest per annum has also now been extended to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries farmers for meeting their short-term working capital needs.

- iii. A special drive has been undertaken since February 2020 to provide concessional institutional credit with focus on covering all PM-KISAN beneficiaries through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). As on 23.12.2022, 387.87 lakh new KCC applications have been sanctioned with a sanctioned credit limit of Rs. 4,49,443 crore as part of the drive.

5. Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) at one-and-a half times the cost of production –

- i. Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of at least 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from 2018-19.
- ii. MSP for Paddy (common) has increased to Rs. 2040 per quintal in 2022-23 from Rs. 1310 per quintal in 2013-14.
- iii. MSP for Wheat increased from Rs. 1400 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs. 2125 per quintal in 2022-23.

6. Promotion of organic farming in the country

- i. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) was initiated in 2015-16 to promote organic farming in the country. 32384 clusters have been formed and an area of 6.53 lakh hectare has been covered benefitting 16.19 lakh farmers. In addition, Under Namami Gange Programme 123620 hectare area covered and under natural farming 4.09 lakh hectare area covered. Farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand have taken-up organic farming on either side of the river Ganga to control river water pollution as well as to fetch additional income to farmers.
- ii. Government also proposes to promote sustainable natural farming systems through the scheme Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Padhati (BPKP). The proposed scheme aims at cutting down cost of cultivation, enhancing farmer's income and ensuring resource conservation and, safe and healthy soils, environment and food.
- iii. Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER) has been launched. 379 Farmer Producer Companies have been formed comprising of 189039 farmers and covering 172966 hectare area.

7. Per Drop More Crop

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme was launched in the year 2015-16 which aims to increase water use efficiency, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity at the farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. So far, an area of 69.55 lakh hectare has been covered under Micro irrigation through the PDMC scheme from the year 2015-16.

8. Micro Irrigation Fund

A Micro Irrigation Fund of initial corpus Rs 5000 crore has been created with NABARD. In the Budget Announcement for 2021-22, the corpus of the fund is to be increased to Rs.10000 crores. Projects worth Rs 4710.96 crore covering 17.09 lakh hectares have been approved.

9. Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)

- i. A new Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of new 10,000 FPOs launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29 th February, 2020 with budget outlay of Rs 6865 Crore till 2027-28.
- ii. As on 31.12.2022, 4280 FPOs have been registered under new FPO scheme.
- iii. Equity Grant of Rs. 53.4 Crore has been released to 1415 FPOs as on 30.11.2022.
- iv. As on 12.12.2022, Credit Guarantee Cover worth Rs. 78 Cr. Issued to 447 FPOs.

10. A National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) has been launched in 2020 as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to increase productivity of crops through pollination and increase in honey production as an additional source of income. Rs. 500 crore for the period 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 has been allocated for beekeeping sector. **114 projects** for assistance of about **Rs. 139.23 crores**, approved/ sanctioned for funding under NBHM during 2020-21 & 2021-22 till date.

11. Agricultural Mechanization

Agricultural mechanization is an extremely vital to modernize agriculture and reduce drudgery of farming operations. During the period from 2014-15 to March, 2022 an amount of Rs.5490.82 crore have been allocated for agricultural mechanization. 13,88,314 numbers of machines and equipments have been provided to farmers on subsidy basis. 18,824 custom hiring centers, 403 high-tech hubs and 16,791 farm machinery banks have been established to make available agricultural machines and equipments to the farmers on rental basis. During the current year i.e. 2022-23, so far an amount of Rs. 504.43 crores have been released for distribution of around 65302 machines on subsidy, establishment of 2804 CHCs, 12 Hi-tech hubs and 1260 Village Level Farm Machinery Banks.

12. Providing Soil Health Cards to farmers

Soil Health Card Scheme was introduced in the year 2014-15 to optimize usage of nutrients. The following numbers of cards have been issued to farmers;

- i. Cycle-I (2015 to 2017) – 10.74 crore
- ii. Cycle-II (2017 to 2019)- 12.19 crore
- iii. Model Village Programme (2019-20)- 23.71 lakh

- iv. In the year 2020-21- 11.52 lakh

13.Setting up of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) extension Platform

- i. 1260 mandis of 22 States and 03 UTs have been integrated to e-NAM platform.
- ii. As on 29.11.2022, more than 1.74 Crore Farmers & 2.37 Lakh traders have been registered on e-NAM portal.
- iii. Total volume of 6.8 Crore MT & 20.05 Crore numbers (bamboo, betel leaves, coconut, lemon & sweet corn) collectively worth approximately Rs. 2.33 lakh crore of trade has been recorded on e-NAM platform as on 29.11.2022.
- iv. As on 01.12.2022, 203 Agriculture and allied products Tradable Parameter have been formulated for Assaying on e-NAM platform

14.Launch of the National Mission for Edible Oils – Oil Palm - NMEO has been approved with a total outlay of Rs 11,040 crore. This will bring an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare under Oil Palm plantation with 3.28 lakh hectare in the north-eastern states and 3.22 lakh hectare in the rest of India in the next 5 years. The major focus of the Mission is to provide Viability Prices of fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) to the farmers linked with assured procurement by industry with a simpler price fixing formula.

15.Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

Since inception of AIF in the year 2020, the scheme has sanctioned an amount of Rs.14170 crore worth agriculture infrastructure in the country for 19191 projects. With the support of the scheme, various agriculture infrastructures were created and some of the infrastructure are at the final stage of completion. These infrastructures include 8215 warehouses, 3076 primary processing units, 2123 custom hiring centres, 992 sorting & grading units, 728 cold store projects, 163 assaying units and around 3632 other kinds of post-harvest management projects and community farming assets.

16.Improvement in farm produce logistics, Introduction of Kisan Rail.

Kisan Rail has been launched by Ministry of Railways to exclusively cater to movement of perishable agrihorti commodities. First Kisan Rail was started in July 2020. Till 31st December, 2022, 2359 services on 167 routes have been operated.

17. MIDH - Cluster Development Programme:

The Cluster Development Programme (CDP) is designed to leverage geographical specialisation of horticulture clusters and promote integrated and market-led development of pre-production, production, post-harvest, logistics, branding, and marketing activities. DA&FW has identified 55 horticulture clusters, of which 12 have been selected for the pilot phase of the CDP.

18. Creation of a Start-up Eco system in agriculture and allied sector

So far, 1102 Startups during FY 2019-20 to 2022-23 have been finally selected by different knowledge partners and agribusiness incubators of DA&FW. A total of Rs. 66.83 crore grants-in-aid has been released for funding to these Startups to the respective Knowledge Partners (KPs) & RKVY RAFTAAR Agri Business Incubator (R-ABIs) as grants-in-aid support by DA&FW.

19. Achievement in Export of Agri and Allied Agri- Commodities

The country has witnessed emphatic growth in export of agri and allied commodities. As compared to previous year 2020-21, the Agri and allied export has increased from **41.86** billion USD in 2020-21 to **50.24** billion USD in 2021-22 i.e. an increase of **19.99%**.

The efforts of Government at positive implementation of these schemes have yielded remarkable results towards augmenting the income of the farmers. As part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has released a book, which contains compilation of success stories of 75,000 farmers out of innumerable successful farmers who have increased their income more than two times.

(b): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). NCRB has published reports upto 2021 on its website (<https://ncrb.gov.in>). All the aforesaid measures taken by the Government for increasing farmers income help them in withstanding financial stress and live a comfortable life.

(c) to (f): The **Coconut Development Board** (CDB) is implementing following schemes under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

- (i). Production and Distribution of Quality Planting Materials
- (ii). Expansion of Area under Coconut
- (iii). Integrated Farming for productivity improvement
- (iv). Technology Demonstration/ Quality Testing Lab
- (v). Marketing, Market Intelligent Services, Statistics and Strengthening of Export Promotion Council
- (vi). Information & Information Technology
- (vii). Technical Service, Project Management including Infrastructure and Administration
- (viii). Technology Mission on Coconut
- (ix). Rejuvenation and Replanting
- (x). Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme
- (xi). Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme

The Board encourages development of technologies for pests and disease management in coconut under the scheme 'Technology Mission on Coconut'. Under

the scheme Board has funded ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala in developing new coconut varieties resistant to diseases.

Coconut Development Board have established 11 Demonstration cum Seed Production Farms at different agro climatic regions in the country where quality planting materials are produced and distributed to farming community.

Some of the major initiatives/achievements under Coconut promotion are as follows:

- **Number of FPOs:**

Coconut Development Board has facilitated formation of 69 FPOs (Coconut producer Companies) as on 31.01.2023

- **Value addition in coconut :**

It is estimated that about 91 % of the total coconut production in the country is used as raw coconuts- of which domestic consumption is 33 % and 16% for other industrial uses viz., for production of desiccated coconut, virgin coconut oil, coconut milk/ cream, frozen grated/ dry coconut, etc and a meager 2% is used for religious purposes. The rest 49 % are converted to copra of which about 27 % is consumed directly for various edible purposes. Coconut oil is extracted for edible, toiletry and other purposes from the balance 73 % of the copra.

Technology Mission on Coconut programme gives emphasis on the development of technologies for the management of insect pest and disease affected gardens and product diversification besides demonstration and promotion of these technologies for adoption. Under the Mission, research projects and clinical studies are also sponsored through reputed institutions in the area of technology development and also to establish the medicinal and nutraceutical properties/ benefits of coconut products especially coconut oil.

Since inception, technical and financial support was given to establish 537 processing units with processing capacity of more than 3609.261 million nuts per year.

- **Training:**

Acute shortage of palm climbers to harvest and adopt plant protection measures is one of the problems faced by coconut growers. With a view to tackle this problem, the Board has been conducting a skill development programme from 2011-12 onwards, to train youths in developing special skills and confidence in coconut climbing and plant protection activities for the benefit of coconut farming community. The skill fetches the youth handsome income for their decent living and helps to make available sufficient manpower to society in coconut harvesting and other plant protection activities. So far more than 66,000 persons were trained under this programme.

- **Growth figure/production:**

During the period from 2000-01 to 2020-21 (Second estimate), the area under coconut cultivation in the country increased from 1.82 million hectares to 2.109 million hectares. The productivity of coconut at national level as per 2021-22 (second estimate) is 9123 nuts per hectare which showed an increase over that in 2001-02.

- **MSP of Copra**

MSP for Copra has been increased from Rs. 5250 per quintal & Rs.5500 per quintal in 2013 to Rs. 10860 per quintal & Rs. 11750 per quintal in 2023 respectively for Milling Copra and Ball Copra.

Promotion of spices: Government of India has a flagship programme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), wherein development programmes are being implemented to enhance production and productivity of horticulture crops including spices in the country. The mission programmes are aimed at increasing production, productivity and quality of horticulture crops produced and thus to increase farmer's income. These programmes are being implemented through State Horticulture Missions (SHM) in various States. Major among them are area expansion (establishment of new garden), rejuvenation /replanting of old and senile gardens, production and distribution of quality planting materials, Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPM/IDM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, mechanization, Integrated Post-harvest Management, processing for value addition, development of market yards, technology dissemination through frontline demonstration, Human Resource Development etc.

Assistance are also being provided to the farmers to encourage cultivation of horticulture/spice crops under other flagship programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) etc.

Apart from the above, the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) directly implements production of planting material programme in spices to make available sufficient quantity of nucleus planting materials of high-yielding/improved varieties released by SAUs /ICAR Institutes for further multiplication and distribution to farmers. The Directorate also conducts accreditation of spice nurseries to ensure healthy planting materials. Technology dissemination through frontline demonstration, National /State /District Level Seminars/Workshops and Farmers training programmes etc are other programmes implemented by the Directorate to promote spices cultivation in the Country. These programmes are implemented through the State Agriculture/ Horticulture Universities / ICAR institutes.

Promotion of Arecanut : The Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) looks after the mandate of the development of spices, arecanut, a large group of aromatic plants and betel vine grown in the country at the National Level. Government of India intervenes in Arecanut sector whenever there is a crisis to mitigate the problems faced by the arecanut farmers.

Varieties of Spices developed during 2017-22

ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research and AICRP on Spices, Kozhikode has developed the following varieties of Spices during 2017-21:-

Black Pepper- Cul. 5308 (Panniyur – 9), and Panniyur 10 (Hybridisation & Selection of crosss Panniyur 1 x Cul 54 (OP of cv. Karivally)

Cardamom - Appangala-2, IISR Avinash 1999, and Appangala-3

Ginger – Mohini GCP-49, Suravi, Suruchi, Suprabha, Solan Giriganga, and IISR Vajra.

Turmeric - IISR-Pragati (Acc. 48), Rashmi, Roma, Suroma, UBKV Turmeric-2; (TCP-64); Uttar Rupanjana, (IC-0615130), Uttar Rangini (UBKV Turmeric 3) TCP 129, IISR

Prathiba, Dr.YSRHU Lam Swarna, Rajendra Haldi 1, and Chattisgarh Raigarh Haldi 3.

Nutmeg- IISR Keralashree, and Konkan Sanyukta,

Cassia- IISR Cassia (D1)/ Konkan Cassia,

Coriander - Suguna (LCC – 236), Suruchi (LCC – 234), Ajmer Coriander 2, Ajmer Coriander 3, Rajendra Dhania 3, JD (SI)-1, Chhattisgarh Sri Chandrahansini Dhania-2, and Chhattisgarh Raigarh Dhaniya 3,

Cumin - Gujarat Cumin 5

Fennel- Ajmer Fennel-3, RF 290, and RF 289 (Karan Sonf 1),

Fenugreek- Ajmer Fenugreek 5, HM 425, Narendra Richa, HM 257, HM 273, and Gujarat Methi 3,

Ajwain- Ajmer Ajwain 73, and Lam Ajwain 3,

Nigella - Ajmer Nigella 1
