

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2157  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023

**DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AGRICULTURE**

2157. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:  
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:  
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):  
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to build digital public infrastructure for agriculture as an open source, open standard and inter-operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to set up an Agriculture Accelerator Fund in the country with the aim at bringing innovative and affordable solutions for the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to transform agricultural practices, increase productivity and profitability to the farmers in the country; and
- (f) whether the Government will launch an Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops and if so, the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Government has proposed to build Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture as an open source, open standard and inter-operable public good to enable

inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups. In this regard, following initiatives have been proposed:

- i. Development of Central Core of the DPI
  - Registries (Farmers, Crop Sown registry and Geo Referencing of Village Maps and Crop Sown Registry)
  - Unified Farmers Service Interface
  - Agri Data Exchange
  - Consent Manager
- ii. Development of Krishi Decision Support System (KDSS)

(c) & (d): Yes. Government has proposed to set up Agriculture Accelerator Fund from financial year 2023-24. Under this scheme, it is planned to provide funding and technical support for selected high impact and scalable product & technologies of startup for scaling up their operations.

The accelerator fund will help in bringing solutions to farmers through value addition to the agricultural produce, better supply chain and market linkages, etc.

(e): The government has taken various steps to transform agricultural practices, increase productivity and profitability to the farmers in the country. The details are given at Annexure.

(f): Yes, Government of India has launched the Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme to boost availability of disease free, quality planting material of high value horticultural crops. The program has an outlay of Rs. 2200 Crores for an initial period of 7 years (2023-30).

As per the strategy, Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemes to transform agricultural practices, increase productivity and profitability to the farmers in the country. These include:

### 1. 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. 2.4 lakh crore** has been released to **11 Crore** eligible farmer families, till now.

### 2. 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 11.73 crore (Provisional) farmer applicants have received claims. During this period nearly Rs. 25,185 crore were paid by farmers as their share of premium against which claims of over Rs. 1,24,223 crore (Provisional) have been paid to them. Thus for every 100 rupees of premium paid by farmers, they have received about Rs. 493 as claims.

### 3. Institutional credit for agriculture sector

- i. Increased from Rs. 8.5 lakh crore in 2015-16 with a target to reach Rs.18.5 lakh crore in 2022-23.
- 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 11.11.2022, 376.97 lakh new KCC applications have been sanctioned with a sanctioned credit limit of Rs. 4,33,426 crore as part of the drive.

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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.

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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.

## **8. Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**

i. To bring scales of economy to agricultural operations a new Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of new 10,000 FPOs was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on **29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020** with budget outlay of Rs 6865 crore till 2027-28.

ii. As on 31.10.2022, 3855 no. of FPOs have been registered under new FPO scheme.

**9. 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.

## **10. 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.

## **11. 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)- 11.97 crore
- iii. Model Village Programme (2019-20)- 19.64 lakh

## **12. 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 31.10.2022, more than 1.74 crore Farmers & 2.36 Lakh traders have been registered on e-NAM portal.
- iii. Total volume of 6.5 crore MT & 19.24 crore numbers (bamboo, betel leaves, coconut, lemon & sweet corn) collectively worth approximately Rs. 2.22 lakh crore of trade has been recorded on e-NAM platform as on 31.10.2022.

**13. 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. The Central Government will compensate farmers through a viability gap payment if price paid by industry is below the viability price upto October, 2037.

## **14. Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

Since inception of AIF in the year 2020, the scheme has sanctioned an amount of Rs.13681 crore worth agriculture infrastructure in the country for more than 18133 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 8076 warehouses, 2788 primary processing units, 1860 custom hiring centres, 937 sorting & grading units, 696 cold store projects, 163 assaying units and around 3613 other kinds of post- harvest management projects and community farming assets.

## **15. 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 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022, 2359 services on 167 routes have been operated.

## **16. 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.

## **17. Creation of a Start-up Eco system in agriculture and allied sector**

So far, 1055 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.

6317.91 lakhs 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.

#### **18. 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 the year 2015-16, the Agri and allied export has increased from **32.81** billion USD in 2015-16 to **50.24** billion USD in 2021-22 i.e. an increase of **53.1%**.

#### **19. Digital Initiative to modernize agriculture such as:**

- i. Development of Kisan Suvidha mobile application to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., Weather; Market Prices; Plant Protection; input Dealers (Seed, Pesticide, Fertilizer) Farm Machinery; Soil Health Card; Cold Storages & Godowns, Veterinary Centres and Diagnostic Labs. With market information, farmers are better informed about markets to sell produce, prevailing market prices and quantity demanded in the market. Thus, they can make informed decisions to sell produce at the right price and right time.
- ii. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has also compiled various mobile apps developed by ICAR, State Agricultural Universities and KrishiVigyanKendras and uploaded on its website. These mobile apps developed in the areas of crops, horticulture, veterinary, dairy, poultry, fisheries, natural resources management and integrated subjects, offer valuable information to the farmers, including package of practices, market prices of various commodities, weather related information, advisory services, etc.
- iii. Launching of e-National Agriculture Market initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- iv. Use of space technology for various programmes/areas such as Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observations project, Coordinated programme on Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-informatics project, National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System, Rice-fallow Area Mapping and Intensification, geo tagging of infrastructure and assets created under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, and Crop Insurance.

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