

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 872
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

SCHEMES FOR RELIEF TO FARMERS

872. SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any schemes to provide relief for the losses in farming due to natural calamities;
- (b) if so, whether the Government intends to provide relief for the losses in farming due to the heavy rainfall in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the time by which such assistance would be provided to Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of a severe nature and is approved on the basis of a Memorandum received from the State Government, in accordance with established procedures, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). The financial assistance includes agriculture input subsidy as one of the components, which is computed for the affected area having crop loss of 33% & above.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been allocated Rs.2165.60 crore (Rs.1624.00 crore as central share & Rs. 541.60 crore as state share) under SDRF during 2022-23. First installment of central share of SDRF amounting to Rs.812.00 crore has been released to the State.

The Government of India is implementing Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) to provide short term agri-loans to farmers through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) at concessional rate of interest to meet their working capital requirements. Under this scheme, farmers are given KCC loan at subvented interest rate of 7%. For this, at present, interest subvention of @ 1.5% is being given to financial institutions. Therefore, short term loans for agriculture and other allied activities, including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries etc. upto Rs. 3.00 lakh is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Additional 3% subvention is also given to the farmers for prompt and timely repayment of loans. Thus, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% per annum. In case of short term loan availed for allied activities only (other than crop husbandry), the loan amount upto Rs. 2.00 lakh is available at the rate of 7%. Additional 3% interest subvention is also available on it.

In order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the component of interest subvention is available on the restructured amount to banks for the first year and such restructured loans would attract normal rate of interest from the second year onwards as per the policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Interest subvention and prompt repayment incentive on restructured crop loans is also given to farmers affected by severe natural calamities for a maximum period of 5 years on the basis of report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and recommendations of Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC).

In addition, the Government of India has introduced yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to stabilize income of farmers. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided under the scheme from pre-harvesting to post-harvest losses. Under this Scheme, claims are paid to only those farmers who have insured their crops and paid their share of premium under any of the notified crop insurance scheme in the notified area/crop by the State Government. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh is implementing the scheme since its inception.
