

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1475**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

**IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON FARMING SECTOR**

1475. SHRIMATI NUSRAT JAHAN RUHI:  
SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

(a): whether the Government has any plan to conduct any study to understand the nature of impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on farming sector, if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the Government is planning to conduct such study;

(b): whether the Government has conducted any study on the regions facing agrarian crisis in the country due to drought, flood and recent COVID-19 pandemic this year and if so, the details thereof;

(c): whether the Government is planning to provide financial assistance/credit to landless agricultural labourers facing hardships during COVID-19, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d): the steps taken by the Government to ensure minimum damage to small farmers, poor peasants and migrant labourers engaged in the informal sector due to COVID-19 impact?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) No such study has been conducted. During the lockdown situation, the agriculture sector is functioning smoothly. Government of India has taken all necessary measures to ensure smooth sowing operation during pre-monsoon and monsoon period. All the necessary exemptions were allowed for agricultural activities during lockdown period.

As per the Provisional Estimates of National Income 2019-20 released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020 the growth rate of real Gross Value Added (GVA) of Agriculture & Allied sectors is 3.4 % in the First Quarter (April-June), 2020-21.

(c): Assistance under MGNREGA and PMGKAY is being provided to agricultural labourers etc.

(d): Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme since inception and as on 15/09/2020 about 10.19 crore farmer families have been benefitted and an amount of Rs.94,1305 crore was released. During the period of lock down, an amount of around Rs. 410,86 crores (as on 15-09-2020) has been disbursed to various beneficiaries under the Scheme covering various instalments.

The Government had provided the facility of Kisan Credit Card to the farmers to invest in crops and animal husbandry and fisheries. Now the beneficiary farmers of PM-KISAN Scheme are also getting the facilities of Kisan Credit Card. There is no mortgage required to avail loan up to Rs1.60 lakh.

Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), total claims of Rs 5,326.7 crores were paid during lockdown period, PMFBY was made more efficient and farmer friendly and made voluntary for all farmers. Government of India will now bear 90% of premium subsidy liability for North Eastern States instead of 50% earlier. Further benefit of 2% interest subvention (IS) to Banks and 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) to all farmers for all crop loans up to Rs. 3 lakhs given by banks was extended till 31/08/2020.

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