

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 253
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

DEFINITION OF FARMER

253. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether there is a definition of who exactly a farmer is;
- (b) if so, the exact definition of the farmer prescribed by the Government;
- (c) the manner in which the Government will be able to ascertain who exactly a farmer is in the absence of such definition; and
- (d) whether there are any plans for revising the existing definition of farmers or introducing a new definition of farmers after close consultation with the State Governments?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): As per National Policy for Farmers 2007, the definition of a farmer is “ A person actively engaged in the economic and / or livelihood activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities and will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, bee keepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters and planting labourers, as well as persons engaged in various farming related occupations such as sericulture, vermiculture, and agro-forestry. The term also includes tribal families/persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce”.

The benefits of a scheme being extended to a farmer depends on the scope of scheme and eligibility criteria fixed for the scheme eg. Kisan Credit Card (KCC), benefit is extended to land holding farmers, cultivators, agricultural labourers, share croppers, tenant farmers etc., while in PM-Kisan the benefit is extended to farmers with operational holdings.

Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake implementation of programmes /schemes for the development of the sector. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes/programmes. Land records are under the purview of the State Governments/ UTs.

(d): At present, there is no plan to revisit the definition of farmers.
