

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 287
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR

287. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a): the details of overall impact of COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown on the agricultural sector of the country;
- (b): the details of quantum of downturn in the rate of agricultural growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal as compared to the same period in the past five years i.e. 2015-2020;
- (c): the details of impact of COVID-19 on the incomes of small and marginal farmers due to nation wide lockdown;
- (d): the details of increase in the incidence of agriculture/ farm debt as a consequence of COVID-19 and lockdown in the first quarter of the current fiscal; and
- (e): the details of monetary value of the relief provided by the Government to farmers especially small and marginal farmers to combat the economic downturn of the continuing COVID -19 pandemic and the economic downturn and its impact on the ground?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): During the lockdown situation, the agriculture sector is functioning smoothly as there has been no shortage of foodgrains, vegetables and dairy products. Government of India has taken all necessary measures to ensure smooth sowing operation during pre-monsoon and monsoon (June-September) 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 31st August, 2020, the growth rate of real Gross Value Added (GVA) of Agriculture & Allied sectors is 3.4 percent in the First Quarter (April - June), 2020-21. The growth rate of GVA of Agriculture & Allied sectors during the first quarter of the current fiscal as compared to the same period in last five years i.e., 2015-16 to 2019-20 is given as under:

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(in percent)

Quarter 1(April - June)/ Year	Growth rate of GVA of Agriculture and Allied sectors at Constant (2011-12) prices
Q1 of 2015-16	2.4
Q1 of 2016-17	4.9
Q1 of 2017-18	5.6
Q1 of 2018-19	3.8
Q1 of 2019-20	3.0
Q1 of 2020-21	3.4

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), M/o Statistics & PI

(c) to (e): Government of India issued consolidated guidelines on the measures to be taken for containment of Covid-19. Agriculture related exemptions were allowed in the guidelines. This ensured smooth functioning of agricultural operations. Timely interventions and exemptions resulted in good results. The Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) were communicated to farmers for their safety and keeping social distancing while undertaking farm related activities. As a result of the proactive steps taken, both harvesting activities of the Rabi crop, and sowing activities of summer crops were undertaken in a systematic manner. National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2020 was organized through Video Conference on 16.04.2020 to discuss with the States on challenges & strategies for crop management during Kharif cultivation. There has been satisfactory progress of sowing area coverage under Kharif crops.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme during the period of COVID 19 pandemic, about 10.46 crore farmer families have been benefitted and an amount of Rs. 20926.64 crore was released. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana, the small and marginal farmer of age group of 18 to 40 years with the contribution of Rs. 55/- to Rs. 200/-per month get the amount of Rs. 3000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years. So far more than 20.00 lakhs beneficiaries have been registered under this scheme.

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 lakh given by banks was extended till 31/8/2020.
