

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.370
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

LOAN WAIVER FOR THE FARMERS

370. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for loan waiver for the farmers amid of major losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic out break;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of relief measures given to agricultural farmers to overcome from the major losses due to lockdown?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government has not announced any proposal for loan waiver for the farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c): The details of relief measures given to agricultural farmers are at **Annexure**. All the relaxation were given for agri-sector, because of which harvesting was not impacted. Further, procurement centres were increased leading to record procurement. Summer crop sowing and Kharif sowing have also increased this year.

Concessional Credit Boost to farmers: Special drive initiated to cover 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCC) for providing institutional credit facilities at concessional rates. This drive will infuse concessional credit worth two lakh crore rupees in the rural sector. By 3rd September, 2020, 123.51 KCC cards were issued and Rs. 106,191 crore worth loans were sanctioned.

Agri Infrastructure Fund: A fund of one lakh crore rupees is created for development of agriculture infrastructure projects at farm-gate and aggregation points (such as cooperative societies and Farmer Producer Organizations).

Emergency working capital for farmers: An additional fund of Rs. 30,000 crores will be released as emergency working capital for farmers. This fund will be disbursed through NABARD to Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for meeting their crop loans requirements. This fund is expected to benefit three crore small and marginal farmers. This is in addition to the financial support of Rs. 90,000 crores that will be provided by NABARD to RCBs and RRBs to meet the crop loan demand this year.

Support to fishermen: The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has been launched for integrated, sustainable, and inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries. Under this scheme, Rs. 11,000 crores will be spent on activities in Marine, Inland fisheries, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and Rs. 9,000 crores will be spent for developing infrastructure (such as fishing harbours, cold chain, markets).

Animal Husbandry infrastructure development: An Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 15,000 crores has been set up, with the aim of supporting private investment in dairy processing, value addition, and cattle feed infrastructure. Incentives will be given for establishing plants for export of niche dairy products.

Extension of Interest Subvention for the extended period of repayment of Short term agri loans: In order to ensure that farmers do not have to face the situation of paying higher interest and they can continue getting the benefit of 2% Interest Subvention (IS) to Banks and 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) to farmers for agriculture including Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, Government has extended the period for repayment of short term agri-loans initially upto 31.05.2020 and later upto 31.08.2020.

Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), claims of Rs.13,614.6 crore were paid during the COVID -19 Pandemic.

A sum of Rs.345.71 crore was approved by the High Level Committee for drought and pest attack (locust) under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) during the period of Lockdown as financial assistance to the states.

Initiatives to boost marketing during COVID-19:

Liberalizing regulations under respective State Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts. to facilitate Direct Marketing, enabling direct purchase from the farmers/ Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Cooperatives etc. by FPO trading module has been launched in National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to facilitate FPOs to trade

their agricultural produce from their collection centres without bringing the produce to Agricultural Produce Market Committee markets. Warehouse based trading module was also launched in e-NAM platform to enable farmers to sell their produce from WDRA registered warehouses notified as deemed market. 415 new mandis have been integrated into e-NAM platform during COVID-19 lockdown period taking the total number to 1000 e-NAM mandis in the country.

“KISAN RATH”, a farmer friendly mobile application, to facilitate farmers in finding suitable transport vehicles for transportation of their Agriculture & Horticulture produce was launched.

Promulgated “The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation), Ordinance, 2020” to promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade in farmers’ produce to facilitate remunerative prices to farmers.

Promulgated “The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020” to protect and empower farmers to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or big retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner.
