

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 207
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH MARCH, 2021

SPECIAL INCENTIVES TO FARMERS FOR BUMPER CROP

*207. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government recognizes that despite GDP growth touching new lows, farmers in the country have ensured record crops even during the pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has given any special incentives to the farmers for growing the bumper crop during pandemic and saving the nation in the times of crisis and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give special incentives to the States which have been producing foodgrains for the Central kitty like Punjab and Haryana; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 207 DUE FOR REPLY ON 9TH MARCH, 2021.**

(a): Yes sir. As per the second advance estimate for 2020-21, the country has harvested a record food grain production at 303.34 million tons during 2020-21. The record production of food grains is attributed to increase an area under kharif crops during 2020 at 110.65 million hectare against 108.90 million hectare in kharif 2019. Similarly, the area under Rabi crop 2020-21 also increased to 64.84 million hectare as compared to 63.99 million hectare during Rabi 2019-20. This also includes area of summer crop which has increase from 5.10 million hectare in 2019-20 to 6.9 million hectare in 2020-21.

(b): Yes sir. In view of the global pandemic, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued notification for nation-wide lockdown from 23rd March, 2020. In order to ensure timely and smooth functioning of agriculture and allied sector activities during the lockdown period due to pandemic Covid-19 on 25th March, 2020 onwards the government allowed opening of shops for seeds, pesticides, manufacturing and packaging units of seeds, fertilizers & pesticides & procurement under Minimum Support Price Operations. On 27th March, 2020 Government had allowed farmers and farm workers were allowed to do farming operations in the field, Mandies were allowed to start operating and procurement of agricultural produce was started. Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) had issued the Standard Operations procedures(SOPs) dated 18.04.2020 for farmers for their safety and keeping social distancing while undertaking farm related activities. These measures includes sensitization of field functionaries, facilitate movement of agriculture labour, agriculture machinery, tools and implements for harvesting of Rabi/Summer and sowing of Kharif crops besides availability of Custom Hiring Centres(CHCs) machinery and services, Intra and inter-state movement of farm machines besides opening of Shops of Agriculture Machinery. To

make availability of fertilisers, authorisation to wholesalers and retailer was extended by 3 months (whose validity was expiring during Covid time). Special parcel trains were initiated for smooth movement of seeds, fertilizers and horticulture produce. To facilitate farmers during lockdown, more than 2,067 agriculture markets were made functional. Kisan Rath was launched in April, 2020 to facilitate farmers & traders for transport and vehicle movement of Agriculture/Horticulture produce. The government also ensured early release of financial benefits to the farmers under PM-Kisan Scheme. During the period of April-August 2020, Rs. 40,466 Crores were released benefitting 9.36 Crores farmer families under PM-Kisan Scheme. The Government also ensured adequate credit facility to the farmers, Kisan Credit Card drive started in February, 2020 was taken forward which helped in issuing Rs. 1.96 Crore KCCs. Under PMFBY, to the tune of Rs. 8,741.3 Crore were paid to 69.7 lakh farmers during Lockdown period (24.03.2020 to 07.06.2020). To build the confidence of the farmers, Government declared Minimum Support Price for Kharif & Rabi during 2020-21 before sowing seasons ensuring atleast 1.5 times of remunerative price as per the government policy.

(c) & (d): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is already providing incentives to all states & UTs for producing food grains under various scheme viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revaluation in Eastern India(BGREI), a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) & RKVY-RAFTAAR. Further, the states can approve projects for providing incentives to the farmers under RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the State. Under Price Support Scheme (PSS) during 2019-20, 33.89 lakh tonnes of pulses and

oilseeds were procured at MSP. During current year 2020-21, 32.92 lakh metric tonnes of pulses and oilseeds have been procured so far and procurement is still continuing. Under National Food Security Act, 2013, the Government of India procured 38.99 million ton of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2020-21 against 34.13 million tons procured during 2019-20, which is 4.86 million tons higher. The procurement of wheat from Punjab & Haryana during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2020-21 was 12.71 million tons and 7.4 million tons respectively. The Government also procured Rice during current kharif marketing season (KMS) 2020-21 at 45.19 million tons upto 8.03.2021 as against 52 million tons procured during KMS 2019-20. During pandemic period wheat procurement centres were increased from 14,838 to 21,869 in the country for RMS 2020-21. In Punjab & Haryana, the wheat procurement centres during RMS 2020-21 were increased from 2,395 to 5,481, an increase of 56%. Similarly, during KMS 2020-21, the paddy procurement centres were increased from 2046 to 4233 in Punjab & Haryana.
