

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2324
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH MARCH, 2021

REHABILITATION OF FARMERS

2324. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE

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

- a) whether the Government has any proposal regarding welfare and rehabilitation of farmers who have suffered due to both COVID-19 and flood;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- d) whether the Government will consider coming out with some plan to extend much needed help to the farmers particularly in the State of Assam; and
- e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): During the lockdown, the agriculture sector had functioned smoothly. Government of India has taken all necessary measures to ensure smooth operation of agriculture related activities. Farming and allied activities were exempted from the lockdown. As per the first Advance Estimate of National Income, agriculture and allied Sectors registered a growth of 3.4% during 2020-21.

Further, the Government had launched many schemes/programmes to assist farmers of the country including the State of Assam, during the lockdown period such as :-

- i. From 24.03.2020 to 02.02.2021, funds amounting to Rs. 62,301.22 crore have been transferred to the Bank Accounts of PM-KISAN beneficiaries, out of which Rs 656.27 was disbursed in Assam.
- ii. Kisan Rails were operated for the first time from July, 2020 to facilitate movement of perishable Agri-Horticulture commodities.
- iii. Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under Agri Infrastructure Fund. This scheme is operational from the year 2020--21 to 2029-30. The aim is creation of infrastructure at the farm gate.
- iv. The National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) - Rs.500 crore from 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 is allocated for the sector.
- v. Concessional credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers through Kisan Credit Card. So far 180.84 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been issued as part of the KCC saturation drive since February 2020.

- vi. Steps were also taken to ensure adequate availability of fertilizer during the lockdown. There has been close monitoring of movement and availability of all the fertilizers through real time coordination with State Governments, fertilizer companies and various Ministries including Railways etc. Also, availability of fertilizers in States was ensured through on-line web based monitoring system called Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS). From April'20 to January'21 nearly 2214 additional Railway rakes were deployed (as compared to the corresponding period of last year) to timely transport the fertilizers to various corners of the country. Timely import of urea was also ensured so as to ensure sufficient availability across the country.
- vii. Measures were also taken to ensure adequate availability of seeds during lockdown. More than 25 thousand quintals of breeder seed was allocated during Kharif-2020 to ensure smooth seed production operations. Movement of more than 1 crore packets of cotton seed and 20,000 quintals of seed was done. The validity of Seed Dealers license and import permission granted was extended till September, 2020.

For Assam, an amount of Rs. 14.87 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 7.74 crores revalidated for distribution of certified seed to farmers at subsidized rates.

Moreover, an additional assistance of Rs 437.15 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) was granted for Assam for the flood/landslides of 2020
