

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 251
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH JULY, 2021

Commitment to Double Agricultural Income

251. SHRI KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil its commitment to double agricultural income by the year 2022;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the proposed recommendations by the Niti Aayog in this regard;
- (c) the details of other major reforms made in the agriculture sector; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for improvement in employment opportunities to discourage increased dependence on the agriculture sector?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) : The Government constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to “Doubling of Farmers Income” and recommend strategies to achieve the same. It submitted its final Report to the Government in September, 2018 containing the strategy for doubling of farmers’ income by the year 2022. After acceptance of the DFI Committee recommendations, the Government has constituted an ‘Empowered Body’ to review and monitor the progress. The DFI strategy, as recommended by Niti Aayog, include seven sources of income growth viz., (I) improvement in crop productivity; (II) improvement in livestock productivity; (III) resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; (IV) increase in the cropping

intensity;(V) diversification towards high value crops; (VI) improvement in real prices received by farmers; and (VII) shift from farm to non-farm occupations.

Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake implementation of programs/schemes for the development of the sector. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes/ programs. These schemes/ programs of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. A list of initiatives taken by the Government are at **Annexure-I**.

(c): The New Farm laws viz, “The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020”, “The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement On Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020” and “The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020”, are intended to provide an ecosystem where the farmers can enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices to farmers through competitive alternative channels for selling their produce.

Farm laws provide additional marketing opportunities outside the APMC market yards such as farm-gates, cold storages, warehouse, silos, etc. to help farmers get better remunerative prices due to additional competition.

“The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020” is intended to promote competition and transparency in trade by way of facilitation of trade in trade area for facilitating remunerative prices to farmers.

The Farming agreement i.e “The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement On Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020” will enable scaling of investment by industry for production and processing of high value agriculture produces and give fillip to exports. The framework will also mitigate the risks for the farmers, enhance their income and will put in place an effective and conducive policy regime for agreements.

“The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020”, encourages investment in supply chain and marketing infrastructure including that in storage facilities to create rural employment.

Further, the new Pesticide Management Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha for expanding the holistic administration and management of pesticides.

(d) : The steps taken by the Government for improvement in employment opportunities is at **Annexure II**.

List of various interventions and schemes launched for the benefit of farmers.

- (i) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (ii) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- (iii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- (iv) Giving a major boost for the farmer's income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif& Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (vi) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (vii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (viii) Launch of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) initiative to provide farmers with transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- (ix) Under "HarMedh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- (x) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PMAASHA)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (xi) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.

- (xii) To ensure flow of adequate credit, Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target.
- (xiii) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 2% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (xiv) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xv) The Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities. All processing fee, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other services charges have been waived off for fresh renewal of KCC. Collateral fee loan limit for short term agri-credit has been raised from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.1.60 lakh.
- (xvi) Several market reforms have been rolled out . These include
 - a. Model APLMC (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017
 - b. Agri-Export Policy, that targets to double agri-exports by 2022
 - c. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act., 2020
 - d. The Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act., 2020
 - e. Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that deregulates various agri-commodities
- (xvii) Creation of Corpus Funds
 - a. Micro Irrigation Fund – Rs. 10,000 crore
 - b. Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to build agri-logistics (backward & forward linkages) – Rs. 100,000 crore including Rs 500 crores for Bee-keeping
- (xviii) Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. In rural areas, wages under MGNREGA have been enhanced from Rs.182 to Rs.202 per day for the benefit of rural workers including returning migrant workers.
2. Various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and Atmanirbhar Bharat which, inter alia, include (i) payment of 12% employers' share and 12% employees' share under Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% by the Government of India for six wage months from March to August, 2020 for all the establishments having up to 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs.15,000 monthly wage; (ii) reduction in PF contribution from 12% to 10% of wages for the wage months of May, June and July, 2020; (iii) non-refundable Covid advance from the PF by amending the EPF Scheme, 1952; (iv) extension in the date of filing of returns; (v) issuing advisory to promptly attend to distress calls of workers/employees and also guide them in temporary shelters; and (vi) for taking preventive measures to contain the spread of Covid – 19.
3. Further, in order to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers, returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on 20th June 2020. The Abhiyaan focussed on durable rural infrastructure and providing modern facilities like internet in the villages. Skill Mapping of the rural migrant labour was also done to enhance their employability on the basis of the skills, they possess, to enable them work closer to their homes. The Abhiyaan involves intensified and focused implementation of 25 target driven works to provide employment and create infrastructure in the rural areas of 116 districts of 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore. The Abhiyaan has already generated 50,78,68,671 man-days.
4. For the benefit of 50 lakh street vendors, Government of India has also launched SVANidhi Scheme to provide them collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- to resume their lost livelihood due to Covid and lock-down.
5. Financial package of Rupees Twenty Seven lakh crore (approx) under "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat" has been launched specifically to inter-alia create employment opportunities, for migrant workers, workers of unorganized sector, strengthening of MSME Sector and promoting rural economy. It includes several initiatives for all these sectors.
6. Ministry of Labour & Employment has taken the decision to extend the scheme of Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojna for another one year i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021. It has also been decided to enhance the rate of unemployment relief under the scheme to 50% of wages from earlier rate of 25% along with relaxation of eligibility conditions for insured workers who have lost their employment due to COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown.
7. Ministry of Food Processing Industries have sanctioned 700 food processing/preservation and infrastructure projects in which migrant labourers can be employed.
8. In order to resolve the grievances of migrant workers during lockdown, Ministry of Labour and Employment set up 20 Control Rooms all over the country. During lockdown, more than 15000 complaints of the workers were resolved through these Control Rooms and due to the intervention of Ministry more than two lakh workers were paid their due wages amounting to about Rs. 295 crores.

9. Approximately 80 crore beneficiaries have been provided additional 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses, free of cost every month till November, 2020 under provisions of National Food Security Act.

10. In response to the Government of India's directions, the State Welfare Boards have cumulatively disbursed around Rs.5618 crore, to approx. 1.83 crore Building and Other Construction (BOC) Workers during lockdown and thereafter. In addition to this, around 30 lakh BOC workers were also provided food relief packages.
