

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3637
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/08/2021

PROBLEMS FACED BY FARMERS

3637. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether it is not true that our country is famous for its agriculture throughout the world;
- (b) whether it is also not true that our farmers are facing a lot of problems like lack of basic amenities of irrigation systems, short and long term loan facilities, availability of high quality seeds and after that sale of their produce at MSP, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is not true that widespread exploitation of farmers at the hands of moneylenders is a common issue that immediately needs to be looked into;
- (d) whether it is a fact that farmers are committing suicide; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government has any plan to revive the agriculture sector in the country

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. 54.6% of the total workforce is engaged in agriculture and allied sector (Census 2011) and it accounts for 18.4%(at current prices) of the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) for the year 2019-20.

The Government through its various schemes and policies is providing assistance to the farming community such as (1) irrigation facilities through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. (2) Loan facilities are provided through the Interest Subvention Scheme. (3) Under Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP) production and multiplication of quality seeds of all crops are promoted so that the required quantities of seeds can be made available in time to farmers. (4) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of recommendation of commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after considering important factors like cost of production, overall demand supply conditions, domestic and International prices etc.

For institutional credit to farmers, the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme is being operated. In addition, PM Kisan SAMman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) is an income support scheme for farmers.

(d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2019 are available on its website.

(e): Agriculture is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. A list of various initiatives taken by the Government to revive the agriculture sector are at **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

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 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme is a single Scheme aimed at providing income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income strata. The Scheme provides a payment of Rs.6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of Rs.2000/-, to the farmers' families.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.

(iv) "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.

(v) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.

(vi) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform.

(vii) Under "Har Medh 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.

(viii) 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.

(ix) 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.

(x) Under the AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT campaign aims to provide 2.5 crore new KCCs to farmers.

(xi) The Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) was launched to provide concessional short term Agri-loans to the farmers practising Crop husbandry and other allied activities like Animal husbandry, Dairying and fisheries. The benefits of ISS have also been extended to farmers in allied activities like Animal Husbandry and Fisheries to existing KCC holders within the overall limit of Rs.3.00 lakh and issue of new KCC for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries farmers with provision of benefit of IS &PRI for loan amount upto Rs.2.00 lakh per annum.
