

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1411**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 07<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**COMPENSATION FOR LOSS DUE TO LOCKDOWN**

†1411. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) the steps taken so far by the Government to compensate the farmers and agriculture sector affected due to lockdown;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to modify the scheme of doubling the income of farmers by 2022 and to increase the budget allocated for said scheme in view of current scenario;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) 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. Measures undertaken by the Government to assist farmers are given in the **Annexure**.

(b) to (d) The Government has adopted several developmental programmes, schemes, reforms and policies that focus on higher incomes for the farmers. All these policies & programmes are being supported by higher budgetary allocations, non-budgetary financial resources by way of creating corpus funds like Micro Irrigation Fund etc. There have been several reforms to unleash the potential of agriculture like Promotion of 10,000 FPOs, Supplementary Income transfers under PM-KISAN; Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY); Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent return on the cost of production. Bee-Keeping; Rashtriya Gokul Mission; Blue Revolution; Kisan Credit Card (KCC) that now offer production loans to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops etc.

**Initiatives of Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) during the  
lockdown**

**❖ EXEMPTION TO AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS**

- The Department ensured continuity in farm operations. The activities related to agriculture such as movement of labour, farm machinery etc. were exempted from the lockdown and agriculture related activities carried on as usual.

**❖ PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN)**

- Release of the financial benefit under PM-KISAN scheme.
- About 11.12 crore farmers benefitted & Rs.1.08 Lakh crore released during lockdown from 23.03.20 to 1.12.2021. Since inception of the scheme till date 11.61 crore farmers benefitted and Rs. 1.61 lakh crore released under this scheme.

**❖ AGRICULTURAL MARKETING**

- All wholesale mandis were closed on 25.03.2020. However, more than 2,067 markets were made functional for the benefits of farmers.
- Direct Marketing was facilitated; FPOs supplied vegetables in nearby cities and towns.
- “KISAN RATH APP” was launched in April, 2020 to facilitate farmers & traders in searching for transport vehicles for movement of agriculture & horticulture produce.
- 415 e-NAM mandis were made operational during the Covid period to take the total e-NAM mandis in the country to 1000.

**❖ HORTICULTURE**

- Indian Railways started Special Parcel Trains since 31.03.2020 which carried perishable products, agro-products & dairy products across the country.
- India's first Kisan Rail started on 7.08.2020 from Devlali to Danapur & second Kisan Rail from Anantpur to Adarsh Nagar on 09.09.2020.

#### ❖ **INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

- Authorization to fertilizer wholesalers /retailers extended by 3 months (whose validity expired during Covid time).
- Fertilizer movement to States was monitored to ensure smooth delivery of fertilizers.

#### ❖ **SEEDS**

- Ensured availability of 153 lakh quintals seed among the farmers against the requirement of 150 lakh quintals for Kharif 2020.
- Movement of more than 1 crore packets of cotton seed in different parts of India was ensured.
- More than 20,000 quintals of seed was transported from Hyderabad to the Northern & Eastern regions of India.
- Validity of Seed Dealers license that expired during the lockdown extended till Sept, 2020.

#### ❖ **AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION & TECHNOLOGY**

- "Farm Machinery Mobile App" developed.
- More than 49,029 Custom Hiring Centers were available and more than 1,45,839 agricultural machinery was registered for rent on this App.
- Module of Uberisation of logistics aggregators launched on e-NAM platform. More than 11.37 lakh trucks & 2.3 lakh transporters were linked to this module.

#### ❖ **EXTENSION**

- Circulated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) related to crop harvesting & threshing during Kharif 2020 to States.
- Short video film on 'Social Distancing during agricultural activities' was launched.
- All India Agri Transport Call Centre launched in April, 2020 for coordination between States for inter-state movement of perishables.
- 454 KCC seats at 21 locations operated between 6 A.M to 10 P.M. Call flow was about 15,000 to 20,000 per day.

#### ❖ **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN (ABA)**

Government of India launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ABA) on May 12, 2020 to strengthen Infrastructure, Logistics, Capacity Building, Governance and Administrative Reforms for Agriculture. The components of the ABA for DA&FW are as follows

##### **(i) Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs one lakh crore**

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.

**(ii) The National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM)** - Rs.500 crore from 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 is allocated for the sector.

**(iii) Kisan Credit Card**

KCC saturation drive started in February, 2020. 260.59 lakh new KCC applications have been sanctioned so far.

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