

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2663
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14th DECEMBER, 2021

AGRARIAN REFORMS

2663. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any agrarian reforms in the country during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the average agricultural growth of the country has come down drastically during the last three years;
- (c) if so, whether it is also a fact that low farm produce prices have led to widespread rural distress and debt of farmers are fuelling farmer protests across the country; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support and various schemes/ programmes. The various schemes/ programmes 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 various initiatives taken by the Government is at Annexure.

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, and supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN. The latest major intervention includes the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat – Agriculture package' which includes comprehensive market reforms and creation of 'Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF)' worth Rs. 1 lakh crore.

(b) to (d): During the last three years, the growth rate of Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sector (as per the figures released by National Statistics office) from 2018-19 to 2020-21 are as follows:

Year	Growth rate of GVA of agriculture & allied sector (at 2011-12 prices)
2018-19#	2.6
2019-20@	4.3
2020-21**	3.6

#Second revised estimate.

@First revised estimates released on 29th January, 2021.

**As per provisional estimates of Annual National Income, 2020-21 released on 31st May, 2021.

The prices of agricultural produce are determined by supply and demand conditions in the market on a day-to-day basis. Apart from demand and supply conditions, quality of produce, weather condition, seasonality, availability of stocks and international prices are also affecting the prices of agricultural produce.

The Government has taken a number of steps to improve post harvest infrastructure such as cold storages, warehouses, efficient supply chains etc. under various schemes such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY - RAFTAAR), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). Further, in order to prevent farmers from distress sales a 2% interest subvention has been extended to small and marginal formers having Kisan Credit Card (KCC) on post harvest loans against negotiable warehouses receipts (NWRs) at the same rate as applicable to crop loans for a period upto 6 months post harvest.

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 e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic 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) 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.

(xiii) 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.

(xiv) 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. KCC will be issued within 14 days from the receipt of completed application.

(xv) Government has launched a Central Sector Scheme of "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmers Produce Organization (FPOs)" for raising the income of farmers in the country, under which professional handholding support is to be provided for a period of five years to the new FPOs formed under the scheme. Provision of financial assistance to the tune of Rs.18 lakhs to each FPOs under the scheme towards establishment cost for 3 years has been made.

(xvi) 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
