

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 445
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30th NOVEMBER, 2021

Kisan Credit Cards to Fishermen

445. ADV ADOOR PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to extend the facility of Kisan Credit Card to all fishermen in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the plan prepared for the same;
- (c) Whether the Government is aware that fishermen are the most vulnerable section in the country to climate change and huge employment loss; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government will also consider a job guarantee scheme for fishermen for ensuring minimum employment in a year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, the Government of India has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the fishers, fish farmers and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital needs. The KCC facility will help fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to meet their shortterm credit requirements of rearing of animals, poultry birds, fish, shrimp, other aquatic organisms and capture of fish. The detailed guidelines for issuance of KCCs to animal husbandry farmers and fisheries laying down the eligibility criterion and scale of finance etc. has been issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4th February, 2019 and a copy of the same is furnished at Annexure-I. Further, a special drive was launched w.e.f. 1st June 2020 to provide KCC to the farmers, with special focus on PM-KISAN beneficiaries, Animal Husbandry farmers, fish farmers and fishermen. Further, the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services is pursuing the matter with all the State Governments/UTs and the State Level Bankers Committees (SLBCs) to spread awareness on the KCC facility and to canvass applications through special campaigns. The KCC Campaign is being held from 15th November, 2021 to 15th February, 2022 for providing Kisan Credit Card facility to all eligible Fisheries Farmers. Till 15th November, 2021, a total of 61,650 KCCs have been issued to the fisher and fish farmers.

(c) and (d) The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has implementing a flagship scheme namely "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to bring about sustainable development of fisheries sector in India with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for a period of 5 years from financial year 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories as a part of *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* Package. The scheme focuses on enhancing fish production and productivity and on increasing gainful employment opportunities, both direct and indirect, in fisheries and aquaculture sector for fishermen and other stakeholders such as Fish farmers, fish workers and fish vendors.

Statement referred to in reply to the part (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 445 for reply on 30th November, 2021.

RBI Guidelines

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme: Working Capital for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

RBI/2018-19/112FIDD.CO.FSD.BC.12/05.05.010/2018-19February 04, 2019

1. Introduction

In the Budget 2018-19 the Union Government had announced their decision to extend the facilities of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to Animal Husbandry farmers and Fisheries (AH & F) to help them meet their working capital requirements. In pursuance of the said budget announcement the matter has been examined, and in consultation with all stakeholders, it has been decided to extend the KCC facility for working capital requirement for activities related to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

2. Purpose:

The KCC facility will meet the short term credit requirements of rearing of animals, birds, fish, shrimp, other aquatic organisms, capture of fish.

3. Eligibility:

The criteria for eligible beneficiaries under KCC for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries will be as under:

3.1 Fishery

3.1.1 Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

3.1.1.1 Fishers, Fish Farmers (individual & groups/ partners/ share croppers/ tenant farmers), Self Help Groups, Joint Liability Groups and women groups.

3.1.1.2 The beneficiaries must own or lease any of the fisheries related activities such as pond, tank, open water bodies, raceway, hatchery, rearing unit, possess necessary license for fish farming and fishing related activities, and any other State specific fisheries and allied activities.

3.1.2 Marine Fisheries

3.1.2.1 Beneficiaries listed at 3.1.1.1 above, who own or lease registered fishing vessel/boat, possess necessary fishing license/permission for fishing in estuary and sea, fish farming/mariculture activities in estuaries and open sea and any other State specific fisheries and allied activities.

3.2 Poultry and small ruminant

3.2.1 Farmers, poultry farmers either individual or joint borrower, Joint Liability Groups or Self Help Groups including tenant farmer of sheep/goats/pigs/poultry/birds/rabbit and having owned/rented/leased sheds.

3.3 Dairy

3.3.1 Farmers and Dairy farmers either individual or joint borrower, Joint Liability Groups or Self Help Groups including tenant farmers having owned /rented/leased sheds.

4. Scale of Finance

4.1 The scale of finance will be fixed by the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) based on local cost worked out on the basis of per acre/per unit/per animal/per bird etc.

4.2 The working capital components in fisheries, under the scale of finance, may include recurring cost towards seed, feed, organic and inorganic fertilisers, lime/other soil conditioners, harvesting and marketing charges, fuel/electricity charges, labour, lease rent (if leased water area) etc. For capture fisheries, working capital may include the cost of fuel, ice, labouring charges, mooring/landing charges etc. may form part of the scale of finance.

4.3 The working capital components in Animal Husbandry, under the scale of finance, may include recurring cost towards feeding, veterinary aid, labour, water and electricity supply.

4.4 The maximum period for assessment of working capital requirement may be based on the cash flow statement or completion of one production cycle.

4.5 Fisheries and Animal Husbandry experts of the Govt. may be made members of the DLTC for giving technical inputs for assessing the cash credit requirement.

4.6 Progressive entrepreneurs of livestock/fisheries sector may also be included in the DLTC for providing field level inputs while assessing the working capital requirements.

5. General Guidelines

5.1 *Drawing power*: The drawing power will be worked on the basis of the latest valuation of stocks, receivables and/or cash flows as per terms of sanction.

5.2 *Repayment*: The loan will be in the nature of a revolving cash credit limit. Repayment will be fixed as per the cash flow/income generation pattern of the activity undertaken by the borrower.

5.3 *Monitoring of end use*: The account/smart card for the loan issued under the scheme is to be maintained/issued separately from the existing KCC loan to monitor the utilization limit. The monitoring of end use of funds will be in line with other loans (KCC on crop loans included) viz., field visits to the site of unit/project to be carried out by the branch officials for checking the progress of the unit. Banks will periodically review the facility and continue/withdraw/scale down the facility based on the performance of the borrower.

5.4 *Prudential norms*: The extant prudential norms on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning on allied activities will apply.

5.5 *Rate of Interest*: The rate of interest will be as stipulated in DBR's Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Advances) Directions 2016.

5.6 All other guidelines laid down in Kisan Credit Card Scheme for short term crop loans will be applicable mutatis mutandis.
