

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th JULY, 2022

INCENTIVES TO FARMERS

282. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERSWELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याणमंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various concessions and incentives provided to farmers for agricultural development particularly during COVID-19;
- (b) whether some suggestions have been received from various sectors regarding the grant of industry status to agriculture and any work has been done by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the action plan launched by the Government for sustainable development of agriculture sector and farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERSWELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याणमंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGHTOMAR)

- (a) Details of concessions and incentives given to farmers for agricultural development during Covid-19 are given at **Annexure**.
- (b) Agriculture and industry supplement each other. Government seeks to bestow on agriculture sector as many benefits as available to those in the manufacturing sector such as easy availability of credit and other inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers, electricity, irrigation, mechanization etc and creation of infrastructure facilities for marketing and post-harvest management for development of the agriculture sector.
- (c) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare aiming at transforming Indian agriculture into an ecologically sustainable climate resilient production system, while ensuring food security, employment and livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

Technologies associated with Climate Resilient Agriculture are promoted through missions/schemes.

Activities/Schemes/Programmes under the mission are (i) Rainfed Area Development (ii) Soil Health Management (iii) Soil Health Card (iv) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (v) Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (vi) Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana and (vii) Restructured National Bamboo Mission. A scheme on Crop Residue Management is also being implemented. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also launched a flagship network project 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA) in 2011. The project is being implemented through different components viz., strategic research on adaptation and mitigation, demonstration of technologies on farmers' fields in 151 clusters of villages one each from climatically vulnerable districts and creating awareness among farmers and other stakeholders to minimize the climatic change impacts on agriculture.

Initiatives taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare during the lockdown

During the lockdown, the agriculture sector had functioned smoothly. Government of India has taken all necessary measures to ensure smooth operation of agriculture and its related activities. Farming and allied activities were exempted from the lockdown. Various initiatives taken by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare during the lockdown are as follows;

❖ 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.
- Rs.1.82 lakh crore has been released to about 11.37 crore farmers so far.

❖ AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

- More than 2,067 markets were made functional to facilitate farmers during Covid.
- Direct Marketing was facilitated; FPOs supplied vegetables in nearby cities and towns.
- A "KISAN RATH APP" was launched in April, 2020 to facilitate farmers & traders for transport vehicles to enable 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.
- As far as paddy is concerned, in comparison to 2019-20 when there were 67127 procurement centres, in 2020-21 during Covid 19 the number of procurement centres were increased to 74609. Similarly, for wheat, the number of procurement centres increased from 14644 to 20163 during the Covid period.

❖ HORTICULTURE

- The 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 and the second Kisan Rail from Anantpur to Adarsh Nagar on 09.09.2020.

❖ **INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

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

❖ **SEEDS**

- Availability of 153 lakh quintals seed among the farmers was ensured against a 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 was extended till Sept, 2020.

❖ **AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION & TECHNOLOGY**

- A "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.
- A module of Uberisation of logistics aggregators was launched on the e-NAM platform. More than 11.37 lakh trucks & 2.3 lakh transporters were linked to this module.

❖ **EXTENSION**

- Circulated SOP related to crop harvesting & threshing during Kharif 2020 to States.
- A short video film on 'Social Distancing during agricultural activities' was launched.
- An All India Agri Transport Call Centre was launched in April, 2020 for coordination between States for inter-state movement of perishables.
- 454 Kisan Call Centers 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)**

The 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

A Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under Agri Infrastructure Fund was launched. 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 was allocated for the sector for the period from 2020-2021 to 2022-2023

(iii) Kisan Credit Card

A KCC saturation drive was started in February, 2020. So far 3.28 crore new KCC applications have been sanctioned with a sanctioned credit limit of Rs. 3,72,537 crore as part of the drive.

❖ **Initiatives taken by ICAR**

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the country made focussed attempts to help the farming community cope with various constraints posed by Covid 19 during day to day farm operations and post-harvest activities. Attempts were made with reference to bringing awareness on Covid appropriate behaviour, implementing field operations and marketing strategies to be deployed for effecting disposal of farm produce.

Advisories on crop and livestock production / protection technologies in 15 different local languages were compiled, uploaded on the ICAR website and disseminated by KVKs through extensive use of ICT platforms and social media.

A total of 430 awareness programmes were conducted by KVKs across the country to bring awareness on Covid appropriate behaviour among 79470 farmers during the period under report. Crop (8486) and livestock (3320) related advisories were given by KVKs during the crop seasons for the benefit of 15,04,400 and 1,96,264 farmers respectively. A total of 560 different interventions were undertaken by KVKs with respect to facilitating marketing of farm produce amidst constraints posed for transport of commodities during the second wave of Covid 19 benefitting 1,08,815 farmers. In addition to these attempts, KVKs also undertook various Covid related interventions like publication of literature, use of Youtube channel and other social media platforms for helping farmers overcome restrictions posed by the pandemic benefitting about 50,000 farmers.
