

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1332

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03RD DECEMBER, 2024

ATTRACTING NEW GENERATION TOWARDS AGRICULTURE

†1332. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) the strategy of the Government to attract the new generation towards agriculture as our country is agriculture based and the interest of new generation towards agriculture is declining with the land holdings falling below 10 acres and the consequent decline of farmers incomes;

(b) whether any plan is in place to provide insurance benefits against crop losses due to natural calamities as per the individual land holding of each farmer instead group insurance according to the areas under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Bima Yojana;

(c) the details of scheme introduced by the Government to provide benefit to the tenant farmers of Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the insurance schemes implemented by the Government to compensate for the crop losses caused due to natural calamities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): To attract rural youth towards agriculture, Government initiated a project on 'Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture' (ARYA) which is operational in 100 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

Under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), a mega network project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) co-funded equally by the Central Government and World Bank, efforts were made to encourage agricultural education in schools under an initiative 'Mainstreaming Agricultural Curriculum in Education' (MACE) in School. During 2022-2024, workshops, brainstorming and training programs were conducted for ICAR officials/faculty and senior management and teachers from National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT), State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to develop suitable policy, framework and pedagogy towards mainstreaming of agricultural education in school curriculum. Films (3) have been developed in Hindi and English to attract youth in agriculture by showcasing all the opportunities in the agriculture domain.

In addition to above, Government has adopted and implemented the number of policies, reforms, developmental programmes for agriculture sector in the country for farmers including young farmers such as:

1. Income support to farmers through PM KISAN,
2. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY),
3. Institutional credit for agriculture sector,
4. Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) at one-and-a half times the cost of production,
5. Promotion of organic farming in the country,
6. Per Drop More Crop,
7. Micro Irrigation Fund,
8. Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs),
9. National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM),
10. Agricultural Mechanization,
11. Providing Soil Health Cards to farmers,
12. Setting up of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) extension Platform,
13. Launch of the National Mission for Edible Oils – Oil Palm,
14. Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF),
15. Improvement in farm produce logistics, Introduction of Kisan Rail,
16. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) – Cluster Development Programme,
17. Creation of a Start-up Eco system in agriculture and allied sector,
18. Achievement in Export of Agri. and Allied Agri- Commodities,
19. Central sector Scheme Nam0 Drone Didi

(b): Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) envisages indemnification of crop losses due to adverse climatic/weather conditions against the predefined guaranteed yield and weather triggers.

Financial liability on premium subsidy to farmers is shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis except in North Eastern States, where it is 90 : 10 with effect from Kharif 2020 season. It is a demand driven scheme and also voluntary for the States since inception and for all farmers w.e.f. Kharif 2020.

Further, PMFBY provides for comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest for food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and commercial horticultural crops notified by the concerned State Government. The scheme not only safeguards against wide spread yield loss due to all non-preventable natural risks affected yield viz. flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, hailstorm, cyclone, pests/diseases, natural fire and lightening, storm, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado etc. but also against farm level yield loss due to localized risks (hailstorm, landslide, inundation, cloud burst and natural fire) and post-harvest losses due to cyclone, cyclonic/unseasonal rain and hailstorm and prevented sowing. Further, immediate relief is also provided to insured farmers in case of adverse seasonal conditions during the crop season due to which expected yield during the season is likely to be less than 50% of the Threshold Yield in the concerned insurance unit.

It is important to state here, that new age technologies have been infused in PMFBY to make this scheme more transparent and effective to attract more and more farmers under the scheme. The technical interventions in the scheme are as under:

- a. **YES-Tech (Yield Estimation based on Technology)**- is a technology based yield estimation mechanism for Crop Loss assessment and Yield estimation assisted by data inputs from such as Remote Sensing indices, Weather indices, crop phenological information, soil types etc. using approved Technologies/Approaches.
- b. **WINDS (Weather Information Network & Data System)**- is a network of Automatic Weather Stations & Rain Gauges at Taluk/Block and Gram Panchayat level to create a strong database of hyper-local weather data for the different Govt. and other entities to use for all farmer and farming oriented services.
- c. **Digi-Claim-Payment Module** –A transparent channel of visibility of quantum of eligible claims, claims paid by the Insurance Company and actual claims transferred to beneficiary farmers.
- d. **AIDE (App for Intermediary Enrolment)**: A smart-phone App has been designed for enrolment of farmers at their door-steps through a large network of Insurance Intermediaries. It offers a completely paper-less and cash-less experience to a farmer
- e. **Krishi Rakshak Portal & Helpline**: A pan-India single number integrated grievance redressal mechanism having digital portal and a call center has been developed to enable farmers to lodge their grievances/concerns/queries.

(c): Agriculture being a State Subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State for all farmers including tenant farmers. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support and various schemes/ programmes.

The Government is implementing a 100% centrally funded Central Sector Scheme known as the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) across PAN India. This scheme aims to provide concessional interest rates on short-term agricultural loans obtained by farmers through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for their working capital requirements under this scheme providing adequate and timely credit support to all farmers including tenant farmers.

Under Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), funds are released to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for Settlement of claims received under the scheme from various Banks. As per master circular of RBI dated 04th July, 2018, under the KCC scheme, Oral lessees and Share croppers, Self Help Group or Joint Liability Groups of farmers including tenant farmers, share croppers are eligible for short term loans.

(d): The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is concerned with providing relief under NDRF to farmers who have lost their crops due to drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost. The State Governments are responsible for disbursement of funds to the affected farmers.
