

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2402
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER 2024

SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURE MECHANIZATION

2402. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM) cater to the diverse mechanization needs of small, marginal and large farmers across various agricultural zones in the country, including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the details of financial assistance or subsidies are provided under the scheme, and how do they specifically benefit small and marginal farmers;
- (c) whether the SMAM address the challenge of labour shortages in agriculture and what measures are in place to reduce farmers' dependency on manual labour;
- (d) the details of examples of innovative agricultural machinery introduced under SMAM and the way in which these innovations helped in improving productivity, reducing input costs, or addressing environmental challenges like stubble burning; and
- (e) the role of SMAM in promoting sustainable and efficient farming practices and its impact on farmers' livelihoods in labour-scarce regions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization' (SMAM) is implemented in all the States including the State of Uttar Pradesh with the specific objectives of increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low and promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small land holding & high cost of individual ownership of agricultural machines.

Under SMAM, financial assistance @ 40% to 50% of the cost of machines depending on the categories of farmers is provided for purchase of agricultural machines. Financial assistance @ 40% of the project cost is also provided to rural entrepreneur, (Rural youth and farmer as an entrepreneur), Cooperative Societies

of Farmers, Registered Farmers Societies, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) and Hi-tech hubs of high value agricultural machines. Financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost for the projects costing up to Rs. 30 lakhs is provided to the Cooperative Societies of farmers, Registered Farmer Societies, FPOs, Self Help Groups and Panchayats for setting up of village level Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs).

Mechanization involve using machinery and technology to perform tasks traditionally done by hand. Important areas of crop production system includes land preparation, planting, irrigation, harvesting and post-harvest operations, which are performed by appropriate machines with increased efficiency thereby reducing the labour requirement involved for these operations. The CHCs promoted under SMAM cater to the requirements of small and marginal farmers by providing the machines and equipment on rental basis for different agricultural operations as per their requirement. Technologies such as drones, sensors enable farmers to monitor crop health, manage soil conditions and apply inputs more effectively which helps in reducing input costs and improving productivity. Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) machines helps the farmers in sowing paddy directly in the field and no transplanting is required. Use of mechanized implements like Happy Seeder, Super Seeder and Smart Seeder, which can sow wheat directly into just-harvested rice fields without burning or removing straw from the fields, helps in preventing stubble burning.
