

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3978
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025
WELFARE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

3978. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

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

- (a) The details of methods used by Government to provide latest innovations and technologies for the welfare and knowledge of our rural workforce and ordinary Kisan to improve their work culture;
- (b) Whether the Gram Sevak network is present in all the villages to help our Kisan about the crop or/gram Panchayat in sufficient numbers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) Whether in order to develop Kutir Udyog or cottage Industry in the village itself to create jobs opportunities in village itself sufficient financial assistance or bank loans are ensured by the Government for the welfare of our Kisan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme is under implementation across the country since 2005 aimed at creating awareness among large number of farmers about new technologies and innovations in agriculture. Presently, Scheme is being implemented in 740 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs. The scheme promotes decentralized, demand-driven and farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support States to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sectors. These activities include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups, organizing Farm Schools and Farmer-Scientist Interaction etc.

The Government has set up 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in different States of the Country for dissemination of latest innovations and technologies of agriculture and allied sectors among the farmers. The activities of KVKs include on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields;

capacity development of farmers for knowledge and skill up gradation; and production of quality seeds, planting materials and other technology inputs for availability to the farmers. In order to develop awareness of improved agricultural technology among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs.

(b): Gram Panchayat has a major role in terms of dissemination of information and effective implementation of schemes and programs for the welfare of farmers. Besides, the ATMA Scheme provides for identification of Farmer Friend @ 1 Farmer Friend for two census villages. The Farmer Friend serve as a vital link between extension system and farmers at village level.

(c): Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) to assist entrepreneurs in setting up of new enterprises in the non-farm sector. It aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth at their doorstep.

Under PMEGP Scheme, General Category beneficiaries can avail Margin Money (MM) subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically Handicapped, Transgenders, beneficiaries belonging to Northeastern Region, Hill and Border areas, and Aspirational Districts, the Margin Money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. The maximum cost of project is Rs. 50 lakhs in the manufacturing sector and Rs. 20 lakhs in the service sector. Own contribution of beneficiaries under Special Category is 5% and 10% for General Category beneficiaries.

Since 2018-19, existing PMEGP/MUDRA enterprises are also supported based on past good performances with second loan for upgradation and expansion. Under second Loan, maximum project cost admissible for Margin Money (MM) subsidy under Manufacturing sector is Rs.1.00 crore and for Service sector is Rs. 25 Lakhs. Eligible subsidy on 2nd loan for all categories is 15% of project cost (20% for NER & Hill States).
