

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5015
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST APRIL, 2025

CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN PUNJAB

5015. SHRI MALVINDER SINGH KANG

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to encourage crop diversification in Punjab to reduce the over-reliance on wheat and paddy;
- (b) the details of initiatives which are being implemented to promote sustainable farming practices in Punjab, such as organic farming and zero-budget natural farming etc.;
- (c) the details of steps which have been taken by the Government in ensuring farmers would receive a fair and timely Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops;
- (d) the measures being taken to increase farmers' income through alternative revenue stress like agro-processing and value addition; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), in Original Green Revolution States viz., Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc.

The Government of India is also providing flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under PM-RKVY and the states can promote crop diversification under PM-RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC).

(b): Government is promoting organic farming in the country through the scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a component of PM-RKVY including the State of Punjab. The PKVY scheme provides end-to-end support to organic farmers i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing in cluster based approach. The primary focus of the scheme is to form organic clusters where preference is given to small and marginal farmers.

Government is also implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) in all the States and Union Territories (UTs) including Punjab to encourage farmers to promote Natural Farming (NF). The Mission is envisaged to scientifically strengthen NF practices towards sustainability, climate resilience and safe food.

(c): Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops for the country as a whole and not region or state-specific, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned.

(d & e): In order to promote and ensure overall development of Food Processing Industries across the country including Punjab, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been incentivizing setting up/ expansion of related infrastructure through its Central Sector Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)”, Central Sector “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)” and Centrally sponsored “Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)” Scheme and thereby increasing the income of the farmers. These schemes are not region specific but demand driven.

DA&FW is implementing “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme under PM-RKVY from 2018-19 with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups ecosystem in the country.
