

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 50
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2026

DEMANDS OF FARMERS UNION ORGANISATIONS

*50. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has announced renewed nationwide farmers' protests citing continued agrarian distress and non-fulfilment of assurances given after the withdrawal of the three farm laws in 2021;

(b) whether the Government has assessed concerns of farmers' organisations that proposed free trade agreements, including with the United States, may adversely affect Indian agriculture and the dairy sector by exposing small and marginal farmers, particularly in Kerala including Kasaragod, to unfair competition,

(c) whether farmers' unions have opposed proposed measures relating to power sector privatisation, dilution of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and implementation of labour codes, citing adverse impacts on farm incomes and rural employment;

(d) whether demands for strengthening federal fiscal arrangements, including a higher share for States, have been examined; and

(e) the steps taken to restore trust with farmers, ensure remunerative prices, safeguard domestic agriculture and prevent renewed large-scale protests?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 50 FOR 3RD FEBRUARY, 2026 REGARDING
'DEMANDS OF FARMERS UNION ORGANISATIONS'**

(a): Issues relating to farmers are addressed proactively and expeditiously by the Government to ensure their socio-economic well-being. After the repeal of the three Farm Laws in 2021, the Government held seven rounds of discussions in two phases with Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) at the level of Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister. First discussion was held on 8th February, 2024. Subsequently, discussions were held on 12th, 15th, 18th February 2024, 14th, 22nd February, 2025 & 19th March, 2025. Through sustained dialogue, most of the issues, such as, issues relating to the Electricity Amendment Bill; setting up of national commissions for chilli, turmeric and other spices; rights of tribal communities over water, forest and land under the Fifth Schedule; stricter punishment for manufacture of fake/spurious seeds, fertilisers and pesticides; and rationalisation of penal provisions related to paddy-straw burning etc. have been addressed.

(b): India is a net agricultural exporter. Government undertakes negotiations for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) only after carefully safeguarding the interests of Indian agriculture, allied sectors and farmers, including small and marginal farmers. Adequate safeguards are built in to protect sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy from unfair competition.

(c) & (d): Farmers' unions' concerns relating to rural employment and farm incomes have been addressed under the newly enacted *Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Grameen)*. Under the Act, guaranteed wage employment per rural household has been enhanced from 100 days to 125 days per financial year, with provision for unemployment allowance if work is not provided. To ensure availability of labour for agricultural operations, State Governments have been empowered to notify a pause in wage employment works for up to 60 days during peak sowing and harvesting seasons. Further, enhancing States' role in implementing rural employment and livelihood programmes are examined on continuous basis in consultation with States, keeping in view federal principles and development priorities.

In addition, Government has ensured timely and affordable credit through measures such as enhanced agriculture credit targets, Priority Sector Lending norms, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), interest subvention, increased collateral-free loan limits, KCC saturation drives, and strengthening of rural financial institutions.

(e): To restore and strengthen farmers' trust, Government is engaging regularly with farmers through initiatives such as *Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan*, interactive field visits, and meetings with farmers' organisations.

To ensure remunerative prices, MSP is fixed at 1.5 times the cost of production for 22 agricultural crops alongwith undertaking record procurement. To promote crop diversification, Government is procuring Tur, Urad and Masoor under the *Pulses Atmanirbharta Mission* and cotton under the *Cotton Mission* through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) from pre-registered farmers.

Government is also implementing Central Sector Scheme for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs to improve farmers' market access and income realisation. Further, post-harvest and marketing infrastructure is being strengthened under schemes, such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) so that farmers do not make distress sale of their produce. A digital price discovery platform, National Agriculture Market (*e-NAM*), is being implemented across 23 States and 4 UTs to enable farmers to make informed decision.
