

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project

*60. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had conceived a plan to construct Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), if so, the details of the project;

(b) the details of the land required for this project and availability of the land with Railways;

(c) whether Government had acquired land for this purpose besides the land available with it; and

(d) if so, the details of land acquired, if any, for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The 1856 km long Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni in West Bengal has been sanctioned and implementation taken up. The estimated project cost (excluding the 538 km Sonnagar-Dankuni section to be implemented through Public Private Partnership route) is ₹ 30,358 crore. The Eastern DFC would pass through the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The Eastern DFC will mainly transport coal and steel traffic and augment the rail transport capacity on the busy trunk route. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), a Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways was created for construction, operation and maintenance of freight corridors.

(b) to (d) For the Eastern DFC, total land requirement was assessed as 7911 hectares including 2361 hectares of Railway land. The total land acquisition award declared till January, 2015 under Section 20F (Compensation Award) of the Railway Amendment Act 2008, is 4027 hectares out of 5550 hectares.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Exorbitant prices of quality seeds**

481. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major problems of agriculturists in the country and measures taken by Government to resolve those problems;

- (b) the average holding of farmers in the country;
- (c) the action taken to educate small farmers about benefits of co-operative farming;
- (d) whether good quality seeds are out of reach of majority of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers, mainly because of their exorbitant prices; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken to provide good quality seeds to small and marginal farmers at fair price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) to (c) The major problems of agriculturists in the country is a shrinking land base, dwindling water resources, the adverse impact of climate change, shortage of farm labour and increasing costs and uncertainties associated with volatility in international markets. The average holding of farmers in the country is 1.15 hectare. Measures taken by Government to resolve those problems are as follows:

Enhancing viability of farm enterprises through value-added agriculture, market reform, strengthening agricultural marketing infrastructure, dissemination of appropriate technologies and skill development. New initiatives like Krishi Sinchai Yojana, the Soil Health Card Scheme and a price stabilization fund have been launched to assist the farmers in meeting their irrigation, soil health and marketing requirements. Also Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is engaged in formation of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) to provide the farmers with the benefits of aggregation both in production and marketing.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Good quality seeds are made available to farmers including small and marginal farmers at subsidized prices through various ongoing programmes/schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseed and Oilpalm (NMOOP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET) (Submission on seeds and planting material) etc. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*)

Statement

Details of Assistance/Subsidy for seed production and distribution provided under various existing Schemes/Programmes implemented by States.

Sl.No.	Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	Rice	a. ₹ 5000/- per quintal or 50% of seeds cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed distribution.
			b. ₹ 10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties certified seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Wheat	a. ₹ 10/- per kg. or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Pulses	a. ₹ 2500/- per quintal or 50% of cost whichever is less for certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Coarse cereals- HYVs seed	a. HYVs Rs.1500/- per quintal or 50% of cost whichever is less for HYVs certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
		Hybrid seed	b. ₹ 5000/- per quintal or 50% of cost of seeds whichever

			is less for Hybrid coarse cereal certified seeds distribution for less than 10 years old varieties.
	Commercial Crops -Jute and Mesta	a.	50% of the cost limited to Rs.120/- per kg for foundation seed production.
		b.	₹50/- per kg for certified seed production.
2.	National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)		
	All oilseeds,	(i.)	Full cost for purchase of Breeder Seed of oilseeds from ICAR/SAUs etc.
	Hybrid seeds	(ii.)	₹ 1200/- per quintal or 50% of Seeds cost whichever is less for variety /composites of oil seeds which are not older than 10 years for certified seeds distribution.
	Oil Palm Sprouts	(iii.)	50% of the cost with a ceiling of ₹ 25 per Kg. of hybrid which are not older than 10 years for distribution.
	Cultivation cost as assistance for gestation period for oil palm.	(iv.)	Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties (implementing agency NSC /NAFED/KRIBHCO etc).
		(v.)	85% of the cost of planting material with a ceiling of ₹ 8000/ha. for entire land holding of farmers for oil palm.
		(vi.)	50% cost during gestation period for 4 years with ceiling of ₹ 16000/per ha. for oilpalm.
	Assistance for production	a.	₹ 1000 per quintal for all varieties/hybrids released

Sl.No.	Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
		of Foundation Seeds	during last 10 years and additional assistance of ₹ 100/- quintal on the varieties/Hybrids released in last 5 years. 75% of subsidy amount is meant for farmers and 25% for seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure towards certification and production etc. (SDAs/NSC/NAFED/KRIBHCO/IFFCO/HIL/IFFDC/Central Multi State Cooperatives such as NCCF)
		Assistance for production of Certified Seeds	b. ₹ 1000 per quintal for all varieties/hybrids released during last 10 years and additional assistance of ₹ 100/- quintal on the varieties. Hybrids released in last 5 years, 75% of subsidy amount is meant for farmers and 25% for seed producing agencies for meeting expenditure towards certification and production etc. (SDAs/NSC/NAFED/KRIBHCO/IFFCO/HIL/IFFDC/Central Multi State Cooperatives such as NCCF)
3.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)	All Crops	All activities including Seed Infrastructure
4.	National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)-Sub-	Seed Village Programme - All Agricultural Crops	Distribution of Seeds a. To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified

Mission on Seeds and Planting
Material (SMSP)

seeds @ 50% cost of the seeds for Cereals crops and 60% for oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops is provided for 1 acre of area of farmer for production of quality seeds.

- b. Farmers Training- Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ ₹15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.
- c. Seed treating/dressing drums - Financial assistance for treating seeds @ ₹ 3500 per seed treating drum of 20 Kg capacity and ₹ 5000 per drum of 40 Kg capacity.
- d. Seed Storage bins

To encourage farmers to develop storage capacity of appropriate quality, financial assistance is provided to farmers for purchasing Seed Storage bins. The rate of assistance is as under.

@33% for SC/ST farmers for 10 qtls. capacity ₹ 1500

@33% for SC/ST farmers for 20 qtls. capacity ₹ 3000

@25% for General farmers for 10 qtls. capacity ₹ 1000

@25% for General farmers for 20 qtls. capacity ₹ 2000

Certified Seed Production of
oilseeds, pulses, green manure

- (i.) Distribution of Seeds- financial assistance for distribution of foundation seeds @ 75% cost of the

Written Answers to

[27 February, 2015]

Unstarred Questions

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Sl.No.	Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
		and fodder crops through Seed Village (75% GoI and 25% State Share)	<p>seeds of oilseeds, pulses, green manure and fodder crops is provided to the farmers.</p> <p>(ii.) Farmers Training - Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ ₹ 15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.</p> <p>(iii.) Certification Charges- 50% Seed Certification charges maximum of Rs.600/ha or actual whichever is less for certification of seeds produced under the programme.</p> <p>(iv.) Seed processing and seed storage godowns-Assistance is provided to establish seed processing and prefabricated or other type of seed storage godowns 150 sqm. @ ₹10000 per sqm. to process and store 200 MT capacity for each seed village.</p> <p>(v.) Financial assistance of ₹ 7.56 lakh will be provided for seed processing machinery and supporting equipments etc.</p>
		Transport subsidy on Movement of Seeds – All Crops excluding potato	<p>Available to North Eastern States including Sikkim, HP, J&K, Uttarakhand & Hill areas of W B.</p> <p>a. 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is being reimbursed to implementing States / Agencies for movement of seeds produced from outside</p>

the state to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter.

- b. Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of ₹ 120/- per quintal whichever is less for movement of seeds transported within the State from State Capital/ District Headquarter to sale outlets/sale counters is being reimbursed.

Creation and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities in Public Sector

Assistance for boosting seed production in private Sector including individual/entrepreneurs self help group (SHGs)

Assistance is provided to the States and Seeds Corporations etc to create/strengthen infrastructure facilities for seed cleaning, grading, processing, packing and seed storage

Credit linked back ended capital subsidy @ 40% of the project cost in general areas and @ 50% in case of hill areas and scheduled area subject to upper limit of ₹ 150.00 lakh per project