

(b) The decision of the Government to double income of farmers by the year 2022 will be influenced by both price and non-price factors. Agricultural research and technology is the non-price factor. Investment in agricultural research helps in development of technology which is adopted by the farmers and help in increasing income. Trend in investment on agricultural research and education shows that Government is making sincere efforts to increase the research expenditure, which is visible through the allocation of ₹ 25553 crore during XII Plan in comparison to XI Plan (₹ 12023 crore) and X Plan (₹ 5368 crore). Besides aiming at doubling farmers income, the Government has already launched/approved some programmes namely Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav (MGMG), Seed Hub at KVKs, Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on Pulses and Oilseeds, Integrated Farming Systems Demonstration Units, Skill Development Training Programmes, Farmer FIRST Programme etc.

**Action Plan to increase income of farmers**

†4013. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken to increase the share of farmers in the trading activities relating to crops other than agriculture;

(b) when and how shall the miracle of doubling the income of farmers without ensuring remunerative price for their agro products materialize; and

(c) the details of the practical targets set for the forthcoming programmes and action plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government is leveraging the APMC Mandis and at the same time amends the Marketing laws to facilitate setting up of Mandis by the private sector. e-NAM offers an online commodities trading platform that helps the farmer fetch optimum price for his farm produce and the money is also credited directly to his account. A total of 417 Mandis spread across 13 states have been linked on e-NAM portal. Efforts are being made to link more Mandis with e-NAM portal. Other than Agricultural Crops, Government is actively promoting Horticulture, Floriculture among the farmers and also provides extensive support to farmers through Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

(b) and (c) In order to achieve the target of doubling of income of farmers by the year 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, for the following aspects:

- (i) To study the current income level of farmers/ agricultural labourers.
- (ii) To measure the historical growth rate of the current income level.
- (iii) To determine the needed growth rate to double the income of farmers/ agricultural labourers by the year 2021-22.
- (iv) To consider and recommend various strategies to be adopted to accomplish (iii) above.
- (v) To recommend an institutional mechanism to review and monitor implementation to realize the goal.
- (vi) To examine any other related issue.

The Committee has so far held five meetings so far to evolve a suitable strategy.

Apart from the above, The focus of the Government is on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

In addition, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP.

Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

#### **Converting paddy straw into fodder**

4014. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has devised any method to commercialize paddy straw, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Maharashtra has devised any method to convert paddy straw into animal feed, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is planning to adopt this measure in other States as well, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Government of India under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) is implementing Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission since 2014-15 with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development under which financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various components including Fodder conservation components. The detail of various components under the Sub Mission under which financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs are given in Statement (*See below*). The States/UTs are using paddy straw as fodder after enriching it with the urea treatment including the State of Maharashtra. Further, Paddy straws are also being used in some per cent for making the fodder blocks.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***Details of various components under Sub Mission***

#### **I. Fodder Production Components:**

- (i) Fodder Production from Non-forest wasteland/rangeland/grassland/non-arable land
- (ii) Fodder production from Forest land
- (iii) Fodder Seed Procurement/Production and Distribution