

scheme. Trained farmers who wants to start beekeeping can avail assistance @ 40% of the total cost, as per MIDH norms, for 50 honeybee colonies with beehives, supers, etc. and beekeeping equipments. The progressive beekeepers are developed as Bee Breeder for which subsidy @ 40% of the total cost of ₹ 10.00 lakhs is provided. By adopting scientific beekeeping, farmers are also benefitted by way of increase in yield of the crops through pollination support in addition to production of honey, bee pollen, bees wax, propolis, etc.

To popularize the scheme, among others, provision is available under the scheme for organizing Seminars/ Conferences/ Workshops at Field/District/State/National Levels. The Kisan Melas, Agri./Horti. Expos, Krishi Unnati Melas, etc. are also organized, time to time, for creating awareness and popularizing the scheme for the benefits of farmers and ordinary citizens. The member beekeeping and honey societies of NBB are also involved in implementation of the scheme.

Details of the scheme are uploaded/ available on websites of MIDH and NBB, DAC&FW. Quarterly Magazine "Bee World" and Souvenirs having information on latest technologies, developments, etc. in beekeeping are also being published by NBB and distributed to the participants of the Seminars/farmers, etc.

Under the Honey (Bee) Mission, KVIC has also taken the following steps to popularize the scheme for the benefits of farmers and ordinary citizens:—

- (i) All the field offices will implement the programme in coordination with State KVIBs/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)/ Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)/ Beekeeping NGOs/Agriculture and Forest Department/Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).
- (ii) State and Divisional offices of KVIC invite applications from potential beneficiaries through advertisement in local newspaper and State Designated Authorities of Agricultural and Horticultural Department.
- (iii) Zonal/State level workshops will be organized to sensitized the programme.
- (iv) Beekeepers Meet, awareness programme and training programme are organized frequently under Honey Mission.

Compensation to farmers for losses due to natural calamities

†1958. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the welfare schemes by the Central Government for the farmers who suffered losses due to the natural calamities in last three years, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the total number of affected farmers benefited under these welfare schemes, district-wise; and

(c) whether Government would contemplate to benefit the affected farmers by conducting a survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from the State Government, in accordance with established procedures.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with providing relief under NDRF to farmers who have lost their crops due to drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost. An amount of ₹22972.30 crore has been approved from NDRF during 2015-16 to 2017-18 to the States affected by the above said calamities.

The Government of India has evolved several schemes/programmes to address the need for drought mitigation and other requirements of the farmers under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), besides implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), etc. for protecting farmers' interests. The States have been given flexibility under RKVY to plan region specific interventions for the farmers.

The agriculture is a State subject. The State Governments are responsible for disbursement of funds to the affected farmers. All individual beneficiary-oriented assistance is mandatorily/necessarily disbursed through the bank account of the beneficiary. In order to improve the disbursement and transparency in providing relief to the beneficiaries under various items, the State Government has to prepare a consolidated list of individual beneficiaries in whose bank account funds have been transferred. The list so prepared should be displayed on their website as well as the State/District and block/taluk levels for the purpose of verification and social audit.