

the Constitution of India. A Special Leave Petition No. 25266-67 of 2013 had been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the aforesaid order by the Government of India and the same is pending for hearing.

Training for farmers to take up agro-allied activities

2763. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any programme in the last three years to encourage farmers to take up agro-allied activities like poultry, dairy and beekeeping in order to enhance their income;

(b) if so, whether Government has initiated any training programmes for farmers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ensure remunerative price of these agro-allied products to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing various schemes to supplement the efforts of State/UTs for development of agro-allied activities and thereby encourage farmers to take up agro-allied activities like poultry, dairy and beekeeping in order to enhance their income.

Under "Rural Backyard Poultry Development" and "Innovative Poultry Productivity Project" components of National Livestock Mission scheme, farmers are encouraged to take up poultry activities on small scale to enhance their income. "Innovative Poultry Productivity Project" has been started since 2017-18 on pilot basis in some of the States to promote production and productivity of poultry through capacity building of farmers and generation of gainful employment and sustainable source of income for them.

To promote dairy development, Government of India is implementing various schemes such as National Dairy Plan-I, National Plan for Dairy Development, and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme. For capacity building of dairy farmers, there is a special component under National Plan for Dairy Development and National Dairy Plan-I.

Under the scheme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, to promote beekeeping in the country, assistance is provided for various capacity building programmes such as trainings and exposure visits of farmers/beekeepers, officers/field workers, seminars/workshops, etc.. Assistance is also provided for promotion of pollination support through beekeeping. Apart from this, National Bee Board, a National Level Agency is also providing technical support as well as implementation of promotional programmes related to Beekeeping.

(d) With the aim to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their milk produce by providing stable market access, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has been implementing the following schemes to support dairy development and strengthen procurement and processing infrastructure:

- a. National Programme Dairy Development.
- b. National Dairy Plan-I.
- c. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme.
- d. Supporting State Cooperative Dairy Federation.

In addition to the above, Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund has been launched in 2017-18 with corpus fund of ₹ 8004 crore with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. With the focus on building an efficient milk procurement system by setting up of processing and chilling infrastructure and installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment at village level, this programme will benefit 95,00,000 dairy farmers in an about 50,000 village.

The Government of India has taken the various measures to ensure remunerative prices for milk and to reduce stock of Skimmed Milk Powder such as; (i) enhanced import duty of Whey Powder from 30% to 40%, (ii) Advisory to all the States to include supply of milk/milk products of Cooperatives through Mid-day Meal Scheme, Aanganwadis under Integrated Child Development Scheme, Health Schemes, Tribal Hostels etc., (iii) Provision of 10% export incentive under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme for dairy products, (iv) Advisory to all State Governments and State Milk Federations to use Public Distribution System for marketing of surplus milk, (v) Provision for loan assistance to State Cooperatives and Federations under "Support to State Cooperative Dairy Scheme" to meet their working capital requirements for making timely payments to dairy farmers for milk supplied.