

- (3) Government is also promoting procurement policy in notified commodities through Central and State agencies. Recently, procurement prices of major commodities have been enhanced. The Government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) at a level of at least 150% of the cost of production for Kharif crop 2018-19.
- (4) Government is also promoting formation and operationalisation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), so that economy of scale of produce, better access to market and enhanced bargaining powers can be achieved by farmers, particularly for small and marginal farmers, which will help them in getting better remunerative prices.
- (5) In Union Budget 2018-19, Government has announced to develop and upgrade existing 22000 Village Haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) through convergence of various Government schemes such as MGNREGA etc., which will help the farmers to get better prices for their produce nearer to their farm gate.
- (6) Further, the Government is also incentivising the development of marketing infrastructure to make the agricultural marketing efficient through schemes of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Direct income support scheme for farmers

325. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to implement a direct income support scheme for farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is aware that jurisdictions such as the European Union and China provide direct income support to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) At present, no such

scheme is being implemented by Government of India to provide direct income support for farmers. As per available information, European Union farmers receive support in the form of direct payments, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

However, Government of India has been implementing various schemes for supplementing the overall development of agriculture sector as well as for betterment of socio-economic conditions of farmers. Some of the initiatives are as under:—

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save input cost of farmers.
- (ii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country.
- (iii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.
- (iv) Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) which is an innovative market process to revolutionize agri-markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. The department has achieved the target of integration of 585 mandis with e-NAM by March, 2018.
- (v) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture.
- (vi) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (vii) The Government is 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) for benefit of farmers.

In the budget for 2018-19 the Government had announced that MSP for all unannounced Kharif crops will be 1.5 times the cost of production. Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 04.07.2018 has approved the increase in the MSPs for all Kharif crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production.

Doubling the income of farmers

326. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures Government has taken so far towards doubling the income of farmers and animal rearers;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey during the last one year and collected data of the present income of farmers and animal rearers residing in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022.

At present, thirteen draft volumes of 'Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022' prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

Parallely, the Government is aiming to reorient agriculture sector by focusing on income centeredness. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as