

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After review of the erstwhile crop insurance schemes, the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was introduced from Kharif 2016 season in the country. Various new features to make the scheme farmer friendly have been added in the scheme. These features include comprehensive risk coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks; removal of cap on premium resulting in reduction of sum insured and claims, if any and equating the sum insured with Scale of Finance to maximize the risk coverage at minimum uniform fixed premium rate payable by farmers *i.e.* maximum 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops, with balance of actuarial/bidded premium being shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis; lowering of unit area of insurance to village/village panchayat level for major crops and to individual farm level for localised risks of hailstorm, landslide and inundation and post-harvest losses thereby promoting more realistic assessment of losses; stipulation of time lines for every stage of the claim settlement cycle with final settlement to be done within two months from harvest; adoption of technology for accurate and transparent loss assessment through capture of CCEs through smartphones/CCE Agri App on National Crop Insurance Portal and use of Remote Sensing Technology.

Development of agriculture sector

‡329. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take measures to encourage the development of Agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the inclination of farmers towards high value agricultural produces and to increase their income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

There has been a big jump in the much needed budgetary allocations for the agriculture sector. For the period 2009-2014, the budget for agriculture was ₹ 1,21,082 crore. During 2014-2019, the allocation has been enhanced by 74.5 per cent to ₹ 2,11,694 crore. Non-budgetary resources have been mobilized to supplement budgetary resources.

Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season. The decision of the CCEA is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended MSPs for all kharif crops broadly in line with the announced principle.

(b) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is implemented to holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa. Mission subsumes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. All States/UTs are covered under MIDH.

Various interventions being taken under MIDH for the development of horticulture sector and to increase their income are given below:-

1. Increasing productivity through introduction of improved varieties, quality seeds and planting materials, protected cultivation, high density plantation, rejuvenation, precision farming and horticultural mechanization.
2. Diversification to high value horticulture for orchards and plantation crops, vineyards, vegetable and flower gardens, Bee keeping, Mushroom cultivation, off season vegetables.
3. Promoting Post Harvest Management through Cold Storage (CS), cold chain supply including pack houses, ripening chamber, reefer vehicle, etc.
4. Promoting Primary and minimal processing.

5. Market Linkages: Market infrastructure such as mobile vending cart, retail outlet, primary and wholesale markets. Creating direct market/farmers market.
6. Aggregating farmers into Farmer Producers Organisation (FPO)/Farmer Interest Group (FIG) and promoting their tie up with Market Aggregators (MAs) and Financial Institutions (FIs).
7. Skill Development: Human Resources Development such as awareness programme, farmers training, exposure visit, etc. Providing training on latest technologies on production and post-harvest management to women and youth. Converting Human Resource Development (HRD) interventions to Skill Development in Horticulture as per Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) curriculum.
8. Food and Nutritional Security: Increasing area and production of horticulture crops with high nutritional value.
9. Promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM), organic farming, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

Increase in farmers' income in West Bengal

330. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware that the Government of West Bengal has increased the income of farmers by 2.6 times in the last seven years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when the farmers' income would be doubled throughout the country; and
- (d) the steps taken and the progress achieved, till date, in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) is the nodal agency for conducting survey and collecting data. NSSO conducted a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural households during its 70th round (January, 2013- December, 2013) in the rural areas of the country