

- (ix) Under “Har Medh Par Ped”, agro forestry is being promoted. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1947 Bamboo grown outside forest area has been removed from the definition of trees and a mission have been launched to promote bamboo plantation.
- (x) Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production.
- (xi) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)’. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Government of India to protect the farmers’ income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (xii) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
- (xiii) Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xiv) National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xv) Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.

Guidelines for early payment of insurance claims

1303. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced several operational guidelines that eases insurance claim rules for early payment to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the details of operational guidelines introduced to make timely payment of insurance claim by farmers under the scheme;

(c) whether Government has set year-on-year target for insurance companies to enrol non-loanee farmers under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. With a view to ensure better transparency, accountability and timely payment of claims to the farmers, Government has comprehensively revised the Operational Guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which have become effective from 01.10.2018. Specific cut-off dates/timelines for various activities including timelines for releasing of premium subsidy to insurance companies by States, furnishing of yield data within one month of completion of harvest and payment of claims by insurance companies within 21 days of receipt of clear yield data from the concerned State Government have been provided in the revised Operational Guidelines to ensure early settlement of claims to farmers. Revised Operational Guidelines also provide for target for incremental 10% coverage to insurance companies for coverage of Non loanee farmers.

The following provisions, *inter alia*, have also been made in the revised Operational Guidelines to facilitate early settlement of claims:—

- (i) Provision of 12% interest rate per annum to be paid by the Insurance Company to farmers for delay in settlement claims beyond 10 days of prescribed cut off date for payment of claims.
- (ii) State Government have to pay 12% interest rate for delay in release of State share of Subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut off date/submission of requisition by Insurance Companies.
- (iii) Auto approval of yield data and calculation of claims on portal.

Per centage of farmers in the country

1304. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the per centage of farmers to India's population at present;
- (b) the number of farmers involved in farming of cash and non-cash crops;
- (c) the number of farmers having farming land of area more than 10 hectare out of the total farmers in the country;
- (d) in what manner Government differentiate between farmers and agricultural workers and the criteria for that; and