

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE: (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries. Under the CSS, central assistance is provided to State Governments/UTs for providing it to the eligible beneficiaries including fish farmers. The Fisheries sector is recognized as one of the potential avenue for enhancement of farmer's income and since last four and half years sector has witnessed significant growth in fish production coupled with robust export earnings.

(b), (d) and (e) A sum of ₹ 1872.3512 crores has been released to various states/UTs for implementation of the fisheries and aquaculture development activities in the last 4.5 years. This includes an amount of ₹ 46.5663 crores provided to the Government of West Bengal.

(c) An area of 35195.73 hectares has been taken up for aquaculture during the said period for the benefits of the fishermen in the country.

**Formulation of New National Agriculture Policy and  
Agricultural Produce Price Policy**

1315. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the increasing incidents of suicide among farmers, Government proposes to formulate a "New National Agricultural Policy";

(b) whether Government also proposes to formulate "Agricultural Produce Price Policy" to ensure remunerative price for farmers' produce which will be determined on the basis of cost incurred thereon; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Government had set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in the year 2016 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.

The committee has identified seven sources of income growth *viz*, improvement

in crop and livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations. The committee is also looking into the investments in and for agriculture e.g. increasing public investments for agriculture-rural roads, rural electricity, irrigation; the need for policy support to enable investments by corporate sector in agriculture.

Several initiatives have already been taken among each of the above mention strategies which *inter alia* include:—

- (i) Initiating market reforms through the State Governments by amending the agriculture marketing regime.
- (ii) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (iii) 22,000 Gramin Haats are to be upgraded to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (iv) Launch of eNAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized. In the 1st cycle 1073.89 lakh Soil Health Cards were distributed and in the on-going 2nd cycle 673.96 lakh of Soil Health Cards have been distributed.
- (vi) “Per drop more crop” initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (vii) “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)” under which organic farming is being promoted. North East is being developed as organic hub.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) During the period from 2014-15 to 2018-19, a quantity of 93.97 lakh MT of pulses and oilseeds valuing ₹ 44,142.50 crore were procured at MSP by various agencies of Government of India.
- (x) 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.

- (xi) Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been implemented to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xii) National Livestock Mission has been implemented to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xiii) 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.
- (xiv) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, Government has launched a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. 2,69,69,404 farmers benefited by way of payment of claims ₹ 10,482.86 crore during Kharif 2016, 36,52,284 farmers benefited by way of payment of claims ₹ 5,796.39 crore during Rabi 2016-17 and 1,39,83,661 farmers benefited by way of payment of claims ₹ 16,967.92 crore during Kharif 2017 under PMFBY.

To ensure remunerative prices to the farmers and to give a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the 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.

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.

#### **Setting up of Seed Committee for Horticulture in Karnataka**

1316. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka had sent a proposal in 2016 to constitute a Seed Committee for Horticulture in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons behind pendency of this issue with the Ministry for so long; and

(c) by when the Ministry is going to approve this proposal?