

lenders are eligible under priority sector. Besides loans to stressed persons (other than farmers) not exceeding ₹ 1,00,000/- per borrower to repay their debt to non-institutional lender are also eligible for the purpose of priority sector lending by banks.

- Government is implementing the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme for farmers to draw cash to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides as well as to meet other agricultural and consumption needs.
- To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks.
- Government is committed to farmer's welfare and towards this objective it has changed its strategy from being production centric to an income centric one. The MSP policy announced in 2018-19 season is another progressive step forward in a series of reforms that the Government has been rolling out for the last 4 years, committed as it is to doubling farmers' income by 2022 and improving the welfare substantively. In addition to that the Government has been implementing/reorienting various schemes for betterment of agriculture sector with four key elements: reducing input costs; ensuring fair price for the produce; reducing wastage; and creating alternate sources of income.

Establishment of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund

1319. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a ₹ 7,552 crore fund for establishing Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the move would help to boost annual fish production up to 20 million tonnes by 2022-23 and generate over 9.40 lakh employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has recently approved a proposal for creation of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total fund size of ₹ 7522.48 crore. The FIDF provides concessional finance to the Eligible Entities (EEs), including State Governments/UTs and State entities for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. The concessional finance is provided by the Nodal Lending Entities (NLEs) namely (i) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), (ii) National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC), and (iii) All scheduled Banks. Under the FIDF, the Government of India provides interest subvention up to 3% per annum for providing the concessional finance by the NLEs at the interest rate not lower than 5% per annum.

FIDF aims to achieve a sustainable growth of 8-9 per cent, in a move to augment the country's fish production to the level of about 20 million tonne by 2022-23 and generate both direct and indirect employment opportunities to around 9.40 lakh persons in fishing and allied activities.

Procurement of agricultural produces below the MSP

1320. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent of markets in the county are still procuring agricultural produces below the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to improve the situation at the ground level in providing, at least, the MSP to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Procurement of agricultural produce is done by the designated procuring agencies, at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). Procurement under MSP is subject to certain quality parameters.

The Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities which are generally perishable in nature and not covered under PSS to provide remunerative prices to the growers