

The Department is implementing various schemes to meet this objective viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Interest subvention schemes and Kisan Credit Card Schemes. The Government is also 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 enhancing production and productivity and development of the sector as a whole.

Further, MSP for various agricultural commodities have been progressively increased by the Government to incentivize farmers to bring more area under cultivation of crops and to invest on increasing the productivity. Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season. This decision of the Government 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.

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.

All these steps are implemented to increase the farmers income and thereby bringing rural prosperity.

Coverage under PMFBY

1323. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of premium collected by insurance companies and the total amount of compensation paid under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), since its inception in 2016 till date, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 84 lakh farmers exited the scheme after just a year since its inception;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of total number of persons covered under the PMFBY, year-wise; and

(e) whether Government is undertaking any measures to ensure optimal coverage of the PMFBY scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (e) Year-wise details of enrolments, total premium collected by insurance companies and total claims paid since inception in Kharif 2016 to Kharif 2017 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are given below:—

Year/Season	Enrolments (in lakh)	Total Premium (₹ crore)	Farmers Share in Total premium (₹ crore)	Claims Paid (₹ crore)
Kharif 2016	402.59	16318	2919	10483
Rabi 2016	170.57	6028	1297	5657
2016-17	573.16	22346	4216	16140
Kharif 2017	347.76	19767	3039	16772

Both loanee and non-loanee farmers are enrolled under the scheme. Loanee farmers are those who avail the Kisan Credit Card/Crop Loan for notified crops and they are mandatorily covered under the scheme. Participation of non-loanee farmers in the scheme is voluntary.

After implementation of the PMFBY since April, 2016, enrolment of non-loanee farmers has increased from 27.81 lakh in 2015-16 under erstwhile schemes to 136.66 lakh in 2016-17 and to 138.47 lakh in 2017-18 indicating acceptance of the scheme.

However, enrolment of loanee farmers which is mandatory under the scheme, declined in 2017-18 because of the reasons like farmers becoming ineligible for crop insurance due to Debt Waiver Scheme in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, Government of Uttar Pradesh withdrawing the low risk crops like sugarcane from coverage and introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) by the Government in April, 2017 to weed out ghost/duplicate beneficiaries while helping genuine farmers through Aadhar based verification, etc.

With a view to ensure better transparency, accountability, timely payment of claims to the farmers and to make the scheme more farmer friendly, Government has comprehensively revised the Operational Guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which have become effective from 01.10.2018. To ensure optimal coverage under the scheme, the following provisions, which will facilitate higher enrolment and early settlement of claims, making the scheme even more farmer friendly, have, *inter alia*, been made in the Revised Operational Guidelines:—

- (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) Increased time for change of crop name for insurance - upto 2 working days prior to cut-off date for enrolment instead of earlier provision of 1 month before cut off date.
- (iv) Rationalization of methodology for calculation of Threshold Yield (TY) to calculate claims - Moving average of best 5 out of 7 years to be taken for calculation.
- (v) Increase in risk coverage by inclusion of risks of cloud burst and natural fire under localized calamities and hailstorm under post-harvest losses.
- (vi) Time for intimation of loss due to localized calamities and post-harvest losses has been increased from 48 hours to 72 hours.
- (vii) Stratified grievance redressal mechanism *viz.* District Level Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC), State Level Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC).
- (viii) Detailed plan for publicity and awareness - 0.5% of Gross premium per company per season earmarked for the purpose.
- (ix) Detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for settlement of claims under localized calamities, post harvest losses, mid-season adversity and prevented sowing and redressal of disputes regarding yield data including add on features.

- (x) Inclusion of perennial crops and add on coverage for damage by wild animals on pilot basis.

Setting up of agricultural universities

1324. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce agricultural universities in the country especially in the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Non intimation of General Meeting of Kendriya Bhandar

1325. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister and Central Registrar have received information from MPs and members of Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar) that Returning Officer has not sent intimation about the date, time and place of the general meeting to each of the members of Kendriya Bhandar residing in the State of UP, Gwalior, Chandigarh etc. by (i) local delivery; or (ii) under postal certificate; or (iii) by publication in the newspaper having wide circulation concerning election of delegates held on 6 September, 2017; and

(b) the reasons for not declaring the said illegal election as null and void?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. If any election is conducted to the delegates/Board of Directors of multi-state cooperative societies, including Kendriya Bhandar in contravention to the provision of the MSCS Act, 2002 and Rules made thereunder, the aggrieved person, *i.e.* member of the multi-state cooperative society, if interested, may file a dispute petition as per section 84 of the said Act, subject to the limitation as mentioned u/s 85 of the said Act, which shall be referred to arbitration for settlement.