

- (ii) Introduction of intaglio based bleedlines in all banknotes of ₹ 100 and above.
- (iii) Introduction of MG (New) Series banknotes from November, 2016.

**Investment against poverty and unemployment**

172. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of large investments in agriculture, particularly irrigation and infrastructure to reinforce the campaign against poverty and unemployment;

(b) if so, in what manner Government proposes to raise resources for this massive investment in view of increasing revenue expenditure and rising revenue deficit, coupled with substantial decrease in domestic savings due to low rate of interest; and

(c) how grass-root poverty and rural unemployment would be taken care of in the above economic scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Agriculture is a State subject. The focus of the Government of India is holistic development of agricultural sector with programmes for irrigation, insurance, soil health, market, credit and farm infrastructure which will boost farm productivity and rural incomes. The Union Budget 2019-20 reflects the Government's firm commitment to substantially enhance investment in agriculture while keeping the fiscal deficit at 3.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There has been significant increase in allocation of funds for agriculture and allied activities to the tune of ₹ 149981 crore in 2019-20 BE (Interim) as against the revised estimate (RE) of ₹86602 crore in 2018-19. In order to supplement the efforts of States, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments for irrigation through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The allocation for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana has been raised from ₹ 8251 crore in 2018-19 (RE) to ₹ 9516 crore in 2019-20 (BE). The Government has implemented National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme for ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce through Competitive online bidding system. Government is also developing and upgrading the existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) by

providing infrastructure and connectivity to work as centres of aggregation and to provide farmers with facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

(c) The Government is implementing several programmes that aim at bringing about overall improvement in the quality of life of the rural people through creation of employment and strengthening of livelihood opportunities. These programmes, *inter-alia*, include, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for wage employment, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission for livelihoods promotion through self-employment, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana for rural housing, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for rural roads, National Rurban Mission to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services etc. Further, the 'transformation of *Aspirational districts*' programme of the Government focusses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy. Agriculture, health and nutrition, education, water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure are the programme's core areas of focus. The aspirational districts programme reflects the Government's commitment to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all at the grassroots level.

#### **Disbursement of unclaimed amount of insurance policy holders**

173. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of policy holders lying unclaimed with insurance companies in the last five years;

(b) the steps taken to identify the policy holders or beneficiaries to disburse the claims;

(c) whether Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has the maximum unclaimed amount; and

(d) if so, the special efforts made by LIC and other insurance companies to disburse the claims in view of latest technology and data available with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) The details of the unclaimed amount lying with the life and non-life insurance companies, as provided by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), for the last five years are given in the Statement-I and II respectively.