

Israel. These centres demonstrate water use efficient techniques like Hi-tech green house, Creation of irrigation facilities-Water storage tank/water pond, Overhead drip irrigation system, Mini-sprinklers, Automation, fertigation/irrigation unit etc. In addition, 22 Precision Farming Development Centers, located across the country, are also promoting water saving technologies under MIDH through demonstrations and trainings.

### **Role of cooperatives in agriculture sector**

3039. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to strengthen the role of cooperatives in agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the performance of cooperatives in organic farming, milk production, poultry farming and fisheries in different States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government through Central Sector Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation, has been promoting the role of cooperatives in the agriculture sector. Assistance is provided for providing training to farmers who are members and employees of various types of cooperative societies. Besides, loan assistance is provided by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), which is a Statutory Corporation of the Govt. of India, for promoting, developing and financing post-harvest activities through cooperatives in agriculture sector. These comprise, *inter alia*, marketing, storage and processing of agricultural produce besides supply of agricultural inputs. Subsidy to the tune of 15% to 25% is provided to cooperatives depending on the category of states in addition to term loan. Government also provides guarantee for procurement operations of NAFED.

- (c) Such information is not being maintained by this Department.

### **Increasing private expenditure in agricultural sector**

3040. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current data of private and public expenditure in the agricultural sector;

- (b) the projected amount of private expenditure required;
- (c) the details of how these funds would be utilised; and
- (d) the plans to encourage private expenditure in the agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) As per estimates of capital formation released by Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sectors at current prices for the year 2016-17 (latest available) is estimated at ₹ 64410 crore and ₹ 279066 crore for public and private sector respectively.

(b) As per report of the "Committee on Doubling Farmers Income", in absolute terms, the additional private investment in agriculture sector that will be required to enable the doubling of farmers' real income in India by 2022-23 is ₹ 78,424 crore at 2015-16 prices (₹ 46,298 crore at 2004-05 prices).

The total quantum of private investment should increase (with added investment of ₹ 78,424 crore) from ₹ 61,000 crore in 2015-16 to ₹ 139,424 crore by 2022-23, at 2015-16 prices growing at an annual rate of 12.5 per cent.

(c) and (d) While public investment usually strengthen infrastructure of the sector, private investment is associated with enhanced productive capacity. In order to incentivize corporate sector investments in agriculture sector, Government has already rolled out the following policy reforms:

- (i) The Model Agriculture Produce & Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act 2017, which provides the opportunity for private sector to set up private markets, alternate marketing channels, online market platforms etc. in both agriculture and livestock marketing.
- (ii) The Model Agriculture Produce & Livestock Contract Farming & Services Act (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018, which enables private sector investments by way of capital, technology and extension all along the value system.
- (iii) Exemption to Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) under Income Tax Act - the Budget 2018 has offered an IT exemption to all FPCs with a turnover of upto ₹ 100 crore per annum, by considering their incomes as agricultural income.

This will incentivise corporate sector to partner with farmers as FPCs.

(iv) 100 per cent FDI in food retail - this will encourage foreign investments in establishing appropriate post-production infrastructure to strengthen the food supply chains.

### **Linking of rural agricultural markets in the country**

3041. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a proposal to link all the rural agricultural markets in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of implementation of the said proposal;
- (d) by when all the rural agricultural markets in the country would completely come under the network; and
- (e) to what extent this would be helpful for the agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) As per Union Budget 2018-19, the Government had announced development and upgradation of existing 22,000 Gramin haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). In these GrAMs, physical infrastructure is to be strengthened using Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and other Govt. Schemes. Further, the Government had announced Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase-III (PMGSY III) to connect habitations, *inter alia*, to agricultural and rural markets.

Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is coordinating with State Governments for development of basic infrastructure in Gramin Haats under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

The Government has approved PMGSY III for the period from 2019-20 to 2024-25 for upgrading 1.25 Lakh km of Through Route/Major Rural Links with an estimated cost of ₹ 80,250 crore for connecting habitation to critical facilities like the Agricultural and Gramin Rural Agriculture Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and hospitals.