

- (ii) Grams: As per Union Budget Announcement, 2018-19, the Government has announced to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 Gramin Haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) to work as centres of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (iii) Export policy: For the first time, an Agriculture Export Policy has been announced by the Government.
- (iv) Contract Farming: The Government has formulated and released a progressive and facilitative Model Act "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" in May, 2018 for its adoption by the states/Union Territories (UTs). The aforesaid Model Contract Farming Act covers the entire value and supply chain from pre-production to post harvest marketing including services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock.
- (v) e-NAM: 585 eNAMs have been created. This is a very important step for agricultural marketing. More than 1.65 crore farmers are already registered in the portal,
- (vi) FPOs: In the Budget 2019-20 emphasis has been laid on formation of 10000 FPOs.

Implementation of recommendations of National Commission on Farmers

†650. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers;
- (b) the present status of their implementation;
- (c) whether problems of farmers still persist despite follow-up action by various stakeholders on the recommendations of the Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the comprehensive steps taken by Government to resolve problems being faced by the farmers?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission itself in 2006. Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', submitted by the Commission, which contained major recommendations of the Commission, the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers. The Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, *inter alia*, (i) asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; (ii) supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, (iii) issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; (iv) region and crop specific implements and machinery; (v) support services for women; (vi) timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; (vii) support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; (viii) agricultural bio-security system; (ix) use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; (x) coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; (xi) effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the country and establishing community foodgrain banks; (xii) development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; (xiii) curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; (xiv) special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; (xv) rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and (xvi) integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which was constituted for preparation of Plan of Action, identified 201 Action Points from NPF, 2007, where necessary action had to be taken. Out of 201 number of action points identified, 200 numbers have already been implemented as of date.

(c) to (e) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertakes development of perspective plans and ensures effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. The Government of India also supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/Programmes.

The Government constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers Income" and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in September, 2018

and thereafter, an Empowered Body was set up on 23.01.2019 to monitor and review the progress against the recommendations. Due to the efforts made as part of schemes/programmes of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare which also aligns with the strategy of doubling farmers' income, there has been an appreciable improvement in efficiency bringing about a positive impact in the agriculture sector. Various interventions and schemes that have already been rolled out as envisaged in the recommendations of DFI Committee to double the income of farmers by 2022 are given in Statement.

Statement

Implementation of recommendations of National Commission on Farmers

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. The schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes and include:-

- (i) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (ii) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (iii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (iv) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- (v) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- (vi) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non

forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.

- (vii) Giving a major boost for the farmer's income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (viii) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, 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.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.
- (xi) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at ₹ 13.50 lakh crore.
- (xii) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.

- (xiii) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.
- (xiv) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of ₹ 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (xv) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of ₹ 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.

Credit linkages for agricultural project based activities

651. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government would consider to relax the credit linkages for the agricultural project based activities up to ₹ 25 lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Assistance under National Horticulture Mission

652. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there would be an increase in assistance under area expansion programme taken up in National Horticulture Mission under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); and