

agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

Further, Government has taken measures to retain farmers in agriculture and improve returns to farmers by enhancing institutional credit to farmers; promotion of scientific warehousing infrastructure for increasing shelf life of agricultural produce; improved access to irrigation through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY); provision of Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to mitigate price volatility in agricultural produce; Scheme for Soil Health Cards; setting up of Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund for making farming competitive and profitable; developing commercial organic farming in North East Region, etc.

**Committee for reforms in the  
agriculture sector**

682. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:  
SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

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

(a) whether NITI Aayog has recently constituted any Task Force or Committee to suggest reforms in the agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to implement the reforms suggested by the Task Force or Committee?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) A High Powered Committee (Committee) of Chief Ministers for Transformation of Indian Agriculture was constituted by NITI Aayog in July, 2019. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee were as under:

- (i) to discuss measures for transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income and suggest modalities for adoption and time bound implementation of following reforms by States/UTs.

- (a) The.....State/ Union Territory ‘ Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017’ (APLM Act, 2017) circulated by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India to States/UTs.
- (b) The.....State/Union Territory ‘ Agricultural Produce and Livestock, Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018’ circulated by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India to State/UTs.
- (ii) to examine various provisions of Essential Commodity Act (ECA) and situations that require ECA. To suggest changes in the ECA to attract private investments in agricultural marketing and infrastructure.
- (iii) to suggest mechanism for linking of market reforms with e-NAM, GRAM and other relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- (iv) to suggest policy measures to (a) boost agricultural export (b) raise growth in food processing (c) attract investments in modern market infrastructure, value chains and logistics.
- (v) to suggest measures to upgrade agri-technology to global standards and improve access of farmers to quality seed, plant propagation material and farm machinery in agriculturally advance countries.
- (vi) to propose any other relevant reforms for transformation of agriculture sector and raising farmers' income.

However, the report of the HPC has not been finalized.

**Affordable access to technology at the  
doorsteps of the farmers**

683. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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