

farmers and farm labourers, especially in view of their low and sub-standard income levels in comparison with other developed countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes/ programmes. These schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. A list of initiatives taken by the Government are given in the Statement [Refer to the statement appended to answer to U.S. Q No. 645 Part (a) and (b).] All these steps of the Government of India are for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

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 as per these recommendations. To achieve this, the Committee has identified seven sources of income growth *viz.*, improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations.

Agrarian crises in the country

647. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agrarian crisis has worsened because of demonetisation and GST as they killed rural demand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether widespread distress sale of agricultural produces has been reported, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agricultural labourers have been reportedly idle/retrenched, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide compensation and adequate remunerative prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) No Such instance has come to the notice of Government of India. However, in the wake of demonetization policy, the Government decided to grant interest waiver for two months (November and December 2016) for all short term crop loans availed from Cooperative Banks between 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016 by all farmers and upfront deposit of the same in the account of the concerned farmers. For this purpose, additional funds of ₹ 660.50 crore were granted under the Interest Subvention Scheme.

(d) Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/ Programmes. The schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of the farmers by increasing production and remunerative returns to the farmers.

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 Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.

Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 & 2019-20 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.

Achievement under PMFBY

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

(a) whether Government has been able to achieve the aims and objectives sought under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the data of beneficiaries under this scheme in the last three years including the current year, State-wise?