

The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. The duration of the scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).

Under the scheme, ₹ 1 lakh crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Project.

(c) All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of ₹ 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of 7 years. Further, credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to ₹ 2 crore. The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government. In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under FPO promotion scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW). Moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.

So far as progress under the scheme is concerned, the operational guidelines of the scheme have been circulated to all States/UTs on 17th July, 2020. Various meetings to quickly roll out the scheme have been held by DAC&FW with all States/UTs Governments and other stakeholders. Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with all twelve public sector banks and four private sector banks have been signed by DAC&FW. A portal for the scheme has been created. The scheme has been formally launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 09.08.2020 wherein only 30 days after Cabinet formally approved the scheme, the first in-principle sanction of ₹ 1128 crore was made to over 2,280 farmer societies by NABARD. So far NABARD has received 3055 proposals of PACs through State Cooperative Banks in 22 States for which in-principle sanction of ₹ 1568 crore has been accorded.

#### **Remunerative prices for farmers' produces**

653. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the midst of an economic slump, reflected through the tumbling of GDP figures for the first quarter of this financial year, agriculture has

emerged as the only bright spot thereby our country is expected to be heading towards another record harvest;

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce; and

(c) the measures that have been taken to encourage farmers towards continuing to maintain this trend in future too?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The growth of agriculture sector during first quarter of financial year 2020-21 has been estimated at 3.4%. As per data received, this year summer and kharif sowing is also at record level.

(b) and (c) To ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Government in Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSPs at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. In line with the above-mentioned principle, Government has recently (1st June, 2020) announced the increase in MSP for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21.

Further, Government keeps close watch on import of agriculture produce in the country and take necessary steps from time to time so as to restrict cheap import of agriculture produce and protect vulnerable farmers of the country by imposing minimum import price, increasing import duties, imposing quantitative restrictions on imports and restricting their import through licensing as and when required.

Moreover, to increase production, acreage of agricultural crops in the country, and encourage farmers, Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several schemes/programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Soil Health Card, Scheme for formation of 10,000 Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs), better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform. Further, the latest major intervention includes the launch of Kisan rail and the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat - Agriculture' which includes comprehensive market reforms and creation of 'Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF)' worth ₹ 1 lakh crores.