

Making crop insurance scheme voluntary

1434. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons and justification for making crop insurance scheme voluntary;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this would increase the rate of premium since the number of farmers and area covered under the scheme would come down;
- (c) the reasons for making of the crop insurance scheme voluntary even for the loanee farmers; and
- (d) how this move would help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the experience of implementation of PMFBY in 4 years and after detailed discussions with stakeholders, Government has recently approved the revamping of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for implementation from Kharif 2020 season. To fulfill the long pending demands of farming community and to give them the freedom to participate in the scheme has been made voluntary for all farmers. From the coverage details available for the first season *i.e.* Kharif 2020, it is found that the coverage level has remained more or less same as compared to the earlier season.

Benefits of agricultural schemes to farmers

1435. SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of schemes being implemented by Government to reduce the agriculture cost along with the details thereof;
- (b) the amount of budget allocated for the said schemes and the amount spent thereon during the last five years;
- (c) the number of farmers who benefited from the said schemes along with the details thereof;

(d) the reduction in cost of agriculture per hectare by implementation of the schemes and the amount of increase in the income of farmers, the details thereof for the last five years; and

(e) whether Government proposes to reduce the rate of GST on necessary resources for agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Agriculture is a State Subject. Government of India facilitates the State Governments through many Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes to increase production, to reduce cost of cultivation like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card Scheme, Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation etc.

(b) A statement showing the amount of budget allocated and amount spent thereon during the last five years is as under:-

Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	Allocation	Release
2015-16	200.00	140.82
2016-17	368.30	229.16
2017-18	458.76	194.93
2018-19	384.19	315.71
2019-20	333.95	159.43

Submission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	Amount Spent
2014-15	208.3	181.35
2015-16	177.85	151.74
2016-17	180.00	363.63

Year	Budget Allocation	Amount Spent
2017-18	577.58	791.04
2018-19	1200.00	1126.77
2019-20	1033.34	992.19
2020-21 (As on Date)	1033.09	626.48

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Per Drop More crop

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	Allocation	Release
2015-16	1073.13	1000.28
2016-17	2326.00	1990.57
2017-18	3395.00	2817.97
2018-19	3983.00	2915.64
2019-20	3486.65	2699.62

(c) The number of farmers benefited under the schemes year wise is given below:-

Soil Health Card (SHC)

Year	No. of farmers benefited
2015-16	256.84
2016-17	817.28
2017-18	302.14
2018-19	873.56
2019-20	16.80

*Submission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) w.e.f. April, 2014
(As on 31.8.2020)*

(in Numbers)

Total Trainees Trained	Approved activities			
	Total Agricultural Machinery Distributed including Tractor, Power Tiller & Self Propelled Machinery	Total Custom Hiring Centres Established	Total Hi-Tech Hubs Established	Total Farm Machinery Banks Established at Farmers Level
69138	1241592	12450	299	13334

Under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), 4592137 farmers have benefited since 2015-16 till date.

(d) While a comprehensive study regarding these issues is not available, according to evaluation carried out in respect of some schemes the following is brought out:-

Soil Health Card Scheme

As per feedback received from farmers from 21 states covering 171 districts, it emerged that application of fertilizers as per the recommendation of Soil Health Cards led to savings in nitrogen fertilizers like urea thereby resulting in reduction in cost of cultivation.

- Rice - the cost of cultivation is reduced by 16-25% and savings of nitrogen are found to be around 20 Kg per hectare.
- Pulses - 10-15% reduction in cost of cultivation and savings of 10 Kg per hectare of urea is observed.
- Oil Seeds - reduction in cost of cultivation is 10-15% and savings on Nitrogen are 9 Kg/acre in sunflower, around 23 kg/acre in ground nut and around 30 kg/acre in castor.

- Cash crops - in case of cotton, reduction in cost of cultivation is 25% and savings on nitrogen fertilizer is around 35 kg/acre.
- Horticulture crops- In potato, 46 kg/acre of nitrogen saving is observed.

Judicious use of fertilizers also resulted in increased production of crops.

- Cereals-increase in production of 10-20% in paddy, 10-15% in wheat and Jowar.
- Pulses-Increase in production of 10-30% in pulses.
- Oilseeds- Increase in production of around 40% in oilseeds.
- Cotton- Increase in production of around 10-20% in cotton.

Savings on fertilizers and increase in production also resulted in increased income to farmers.

- Paddy: Increase in income of around ₹ 4500/ per acre.
- Tur: Increase in income of ₹ 25000-30,000/- per acre
- Sunflower: Increase in income of around ₹ 25000/- per acre
- Groundnut: Increase in income of around ₹ 10000/- per acre
- Cotton: Increase in income of around ₹ 12000/- per acre
- Potato: Increase in income of around ₹ 3000/- per acre.

Micro Irrigation

An impact evaluation study for Micro Irrigation completed in the 2014 and major findings of the study are:-

- Irrigation cost reduced by 20% to 50% with average of 32%.
- Electricity consumption reduced by about 31%.
- Saving of fertilizers varies from 7% to 42%.
- Average productivity of fruits and vegetables increased by about 42.3% and 52%.
- Overall income enhancement of farmers was in the range of 20% to 68% with average of 48.5%.

(e) The DAC&FW has recommended to the Department of Revenue to review the GST rates imposed on agriculture relevant inputs, equipment, appliances, machinery etc. and take necessary steps to reduce the same to a reasonable level of either 'Nil' or at the most 5%.

1436. *[The question was Cancelled].*

Ban in use of chemicals in farming

1437. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that chemicals used in farming cause long-term health issues to the consumers;
- (b) whether the Ministry has drawn up a plan to ban the use of chemicals in farming; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) Pesticides are toxic substances but they do not pose any adverse effect on human beings, animals and the environment if they are used as per the label and leaflet approved by the Registration Committee. Pesticides are registered for use in the country by the Registration Committee only after satisfying about their efficacy and safety to human health, animal and environment.

However, with regard to the safety and efficacy, registered Pesticides are periodically reviewed. On receipt of new studies / reports/ references/ information by the Central Government from time to time, the review is done by expert committees appointed by the Government. Based on the recommendations of such expert committees and after due consultation with Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has so far banned 45 pesticides and 4 pesticide formulations for import, manufacture or sale in the country. Out of which, 5 banned pesticides are allowed to be manufactured for export only and 8 pesticide registrations have been withdrawn, 9 pesticides have been placed under restricted use. In addition, 6 pesticides shall be phased out by 31st December 2020.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine' Scheme, under which Integrated Pest Management