

The Government also issued advisories to States/UTs to ensure inter-State and intra-State movement of vehicles carrying the agriculture produce in addition to setting up of monitoring cell to keep watch and extend immediate help for seamless movement of such vehicles including coordination for issue of permits to trucks. States also made various arrangements including nomination of nodal officer for coordination and setting up monitoring cell to facilitate free movement of vehicles carrying fruits, vegetable and other essential food items. Procurement Centre were also increased.

Further, to address the transportation issues of Farmers and other stake holders during Covid-19, the Government has launched the Kisan Rath Mobile App on 17.04.2020. The App facilitates the Farmers, FPOs and Traders to post their load requests which are sent to transport aggregators and individual transporters who in turn respond to the load requests.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no proposal to give compensation to farmers for losses due to COVID-19. However, to help the farmers during COVID-19 period, the Government has been providing assistance to farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). Under the scheme, an income support of ₹ 6000/- per year is transferred in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- directly into the bank accounts of the eligible beneficiary farmers' families.

1439. *[The question was Cancelled].*

Protection to small and medium farmers under Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce Ordinance

1440. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government would ensure that small and medium farmers are not overpowered by private players under the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020;

(b) whether Government will make attempts to increase digital literacy among farmers to promote electronic trading, as specified in the Ordinance and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has plans to provide protection to farmers who are unable to compete with private players with reduced regulation, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) In order to protect the interest of the farmers, the "The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020" provides for a robust market information and market intelligence system in farmers' produce to empower farmers to undertake informed negotiation with the buyers. The Ordinance also safeguards the interest of farmers by providing a provision for receipt of delivery by traders on the same day, mentioning on the receipts the due amount. Apart from above the strong deterring penal provision against the traders and person establishing and operating e-trade and transaction platforms in case of contravention of the provisions will also protect the interest of farmers.

(b) Yes Sir. Increasing digital literacy among farmers is a continuous ongoing process whereby Government's extension machinery undertake awareness programmes among the farmers to promote electronic trading system such as National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), etc.

(c) Yes Sir. In view of (a) above, adequate provisions have been provided in the ordinance to provide protection to farmers.

Dependency on agricultural imports

1441. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any measures to reduce dependency on agricultural imports if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the policies and schemes to ensure self-sufficiency in agriculture, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Major agro products imported in the country are edible vegetable oils, pulses, fresh fruits, raw cashew nuts, raw sugar, raw cotton and spices which, in value terms, constitute nearly 84% share in India's total agri imports.

India has surplus in Agri Trade. The major imports are vegetable oils and National Mission for Oilseeds and Oil Palm is being implemented to address it. Enhanced