

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED Q UESTION NO - 1299
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30/07/2021

DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOME

1299. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Central Government to double the income of farmers through various ambitious schemes during the last two years including the names of such schemes;
- (b) the comprehensive steps taken to provide remunerative price for farmers' crops and to improve their life;
- (c) whether the Central Government is formulating any scheme to create awareness among farmers and to educate them and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether considering the geographical landscape of the country, Government is formulating separate State-wise and region-wise action plans, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The Government has adopted several developmental programmes, schemes, reforms and policies that focus on higher incomes for the farmers. All these policies & programmes are being supported by higher budgetary allocations, non-budgetary financial resources by way of creating Corpus Funds like Micro Irrigation Fund etc. There have been several reforms to unleash the potential and these include Market Reforms like Model APLMC (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017; Agri-Export Policy, 2018; The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955; Promotion of 10,000 FPOs along with necessary financial support under Atma Nirbhar Package (Agriculture) and Supplementary Income transfers under PM-KISAN; Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY); Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi Crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent of profit margin on the cost of production to provide remunerative price to farmers; Har Med Par Ped; Bee-Keeping; Rashtriya Gokul Mission; Blue Revolution; Interest Subvention Scheme; Kisan Credit Card (KCC) that now offers production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops

etc. A list of interventions and schemes launched for the benefit of farmer is at Annexure.

(c) & (d): The Government has already taken various steps to promote awareness among farmers and to educate them in order to ensure continuous growth in the agriculture sector. Some of the interventions in this direction are:

(i) Creation of a network of 725 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to facilitate farmer's access to knowledge and information generated by Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes of the country.

(ii) Initiatives under Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme like Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Kisan Call Centres, Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, Exhibitions/ Fairs etc.

(iii) Imparting training to various categories of trainees including farmers under Four Farm Training & Testing Institutes (FMTTIs).

(iv) Training of farmers under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to create awareness among farmers to increase the production and productivity of various crops.

(v) Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to increase the reach for the farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers.

(vi) Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi

(vii) Training of farmers under Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine for promoting Integrated Pest Management

(viii) National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme to facilitate farmers with remunerative prices for their produce through a system of competitive and transparent electronic online trading platform

(ix) Soil Health Cards (SHC) to educate farmers to rationalize the use of fertilizers

(x) Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) for water use efficiency at farm level

(xi) Training of farmers under MIDH for holistic growth of the horticulture sector

(xii) Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs.

The agro-ecologies of the State, land use and cropping pattern, natural resource endowments, important development indicators, infrastructure for agriculture and Government programmes, productivity gaps and major constraints keeping into mind the scope and potential for development of Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, Agro-forestry and Post-harvest processing etc. in the states are being considered by states for preparing plans for various schemes.

List of various interventions and schemes launched for the benefit of farmers

- (i) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (ii) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan DhanYojana (PM-KMY) for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- (iii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- (iv) Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (vi) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (vii) "Paramparagat Krishi VikasYojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (viii) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers with transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- (ix) Under "Har Medh Pard Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched

in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.

(x) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PMAASHA)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for the 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.

(xi) Increase in procurement under PSS:- The procurement of Pulses, oilseeds and copra at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) has increased upto to 167.05 LMT during 2014- 15 to 2021-22(upto 22.07.2021). Moreover, 16.83 LMT of oilseeds had also been procured under Price Deficiency payment Scheme (PDPS) in 2018-19. In addition to this around 15.53 LMT of Pulses has also been procured at MSP under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) under administrative control of Department of Consumer Affair.

(xii) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.

(xiii) To ensure flow of adequate credit, Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The agriculture credit flow target has been set at Rs. 13.50 lakh crore for the F.Y. 2019-20, Rs. 15.00 lakh crore for F.Y. 2020-21 and Rs. 16.50 lakh crore for FY 2021-22.

(xiv) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 2% on short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.

(xv) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six monthspost harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.

(xvi) The Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities. All processing fee, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other services charges have been waived off for fresh renewal of KCC. Collateral fee loan limit for short term agri-credit has been raised

from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 1.60 lakh. KCC will be issued within 14 days from the receipt of completed application.

(xvii) Several market reforms have been rolled out. These include

- a. Model APLMC (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017.
- b. Agri-Export Policy, that targets to double agri-exports by 2022
- c. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act., 2020
- d. The Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act., 2020
- e. Amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that deregulates various agri-commodities

(xviii) Creating of Corpus Fund

- a. Micro Irrigation Fund – Rs. 10,000 crore
- b. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. One Lakh Crore

(xix) Formation and Promotion of Farmers' Producer Companies (FPOs) to form and promote 10,000 FPOs.
