

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2099
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/08/2024

PLAN TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

2099. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

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

- (a) the comprehensive plan of Government to increase agricultural productivity by 20 per cent in the next five years and the manner in which Government plans to address the issue of water scarcity and ensure efficient use of irrigation systems;
- (b) the manner in which Government plans to address the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable practices;
- (c) Government's strategy to ensure fair price for farmers' produce and reduce postharvest losses; and
- (d) the concrete measures planned to be taken to ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce and eliminating exploitation by middlemen?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The Government is already implementing a comprehensive range of central sector as well as centrally sponsored schemes and programmes to increase the agricultural productivity in the country. These schemes and programmes encompass entire spectrum of agriculture including credit, insurance, income support, infrastructure, crops including horticulture, seeds, mechanization, marketing, organic and natural farming, farmer collectives, irrigation, extension, procurement of crops from farmers at minimum support prices, digital agriculture etc. The ultimate aim of these initiatives is to secure the well-being of farmers by facilitating an increase in overall agricultural production, including food grains, and enhancing productivity.

To address the issue of water scarcity and ensure efficient use of irrigation systems through enhancing the physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improved farm water use efficiency, sustainable water conservation practices etc, Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) during the year 2015-16. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP) and Har Khet Ko Pani (PMKSY-HKKP) is being implemented by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR). During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects (and 7 phases), in the country under PMKSY- AIBP are prioritized in consultation with States for completion in phases. Further, 9 more projects have been included under PMKSY-AIBP from 2021-22 onwards. Besides above projects, Central Assistance is also being provided for few Special / National Projects namely Renukaji, Lakhwar, Shahpur Kandi, Polavaram National Projects and Relining of Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind Feeder of Punjab under PMKSY-AIBP. The schemes of Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies are implemented as a part of PMKSY-HKKP. Central Assistance is provided to States for creation and restoration of Irrigation Potential under the SMI &RRR of Water Bodies schemes.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the country under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). PDMC scheme focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip Irrigation and Sprinkler Irrigation. Subsidy is provided @ 55% for small & marginal farmers and @45% for other farmers under the scheme. Most of the States increase the farmers subsidy by way of top-up. The Micro Irrigation helps in water saving as well as reduced fertilizer usage, labour expenses, other input costs and overall income enhancement of farmers. From the year 2015-16 to 2023-24, an area of 89.89 lakh ha has been covered under Micro Irrigation through PDMC schemes in the country.

(b): The Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to mitigate the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable practices. The NMSA is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. Under NMSA, Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme was launched during 2015-16 to increase water use efficiency at the farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme is being implemented as a component under National Mission for

Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) from 2014-15 in the country. RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. The Soil Health Card (SHC) / Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme is operational through the State Governments under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility. The main objective of the scheme is to assist states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. In addition, the Government is promoting organic farming in the country since 2015-16 through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). PKVY is being implemented in all the States other-than North Eastern (NE) States across the country, whereas MOVCDNER scheme is being implemented exclusively in the NE States. Government is also promoting natural farming since 2019-2020 through a sub-scheme namely Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). The scheme aims to promote traditional indigenous practices and to create awareness of farmers. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Agroforestry & National Bamboo Mission also aim to increase climate resilience in agriculture.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies in agriculture which will address vulnerable areas of the country and the outputs of the project help the districts and regions prone to extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. to cope with such extremes. During last 10 years (2014-2024), a total of 2593 varieties have been released by ICAR, out of these 2177 varieties have been found tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses. Risk and vulnerability assessment of agriculture to climate change is carried out at district-level for 651 predominantly agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) protocols. A total of 109 districts are categorized as 'very high' and 201 districts as 'highly' vulnerable. District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) for these 651 districts have been prepared for weather aberrations like drought, floods, unseasonal rains

and extreme weather events such as heat wave, cold wave, frost, hailstorm, cyclone etc. and recommending location specific climate resilient crops and varieties and management practices for use by the State departments of agriculture and farmers. Enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate variability, the Concept of “Climate Resilient Villages” (CRVs) has been initiated under NICRA. Location-specific climate resilient technologies demonstrated in 448 CRVs of 151 climatically vulnerable districts for adoption by the farmers. ICAR through its NICRA project, creates awareness about impact of climate change in agriculture among farmers. Capacity building programmes are being conducted to educate the farmers on various aspects of climate change for wider adoption of climate resilient technologies.

(c) & (d): The Government is implementing an umbrella scheme of "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshana Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA), comprising Price Support Scheme (PSS) Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), and pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS). Under PM-AASHA, States / UTs are offered to choose either PSS or PDPS in a given procurement season with respect to particular oilseeds crop for the entire State. The pulses and copra are procured under PSS. Further, States have the option to roll out Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on pilot basis in district / selected APMC(s) of district involving the participation of private stockist for oilseeds. Under the PSS Scheme the procurement of commodities is undertaken by Central Nodal agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government as and when prices fall below the MSP as well as compliance of State Government to PSS guidelines. As per the guidelines of Price Support Scheme for procurement of pulses, the overall quantity of procurement by Central Government will be restricted to 25% of the actual production of the commodity for that particular season.

The, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MA&FW) launched Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF) scheme in the year 2020, with the objective of development of post-harvest management infrastructure for reducing losses, realization of better value to farmers, innovation in agriculture and attracting investments for creation of Agriculture infrastructure with a total outlay of Rs. 1 lakh crore funding through the banks and financial institutions up to 2025-26. The scheme provides for 3% interest subvention to beneficiaries of the scheme for the loans given by banks up to Rs. 2 crore for a maximum period of 7 years, besides reimbursement of credit guarantee fee paid by banks.
