

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2094
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2024

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE LAND HOLDINGS OF SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS

2094 SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that average landholding for farming has decreased from 1.08 hectares in 2016-17 to 0.74 hectares in 2021-22, as per the All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22 by NABARD;
- (b) whether Government has taken any initiative to increase the land holding of small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the number of agricultural households taking loans has increased from 47 per cent in 2016-17 to 52 per cent 2021-22, if so, the initiatives taken by Government to ease the burden of small and marginal farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): As per the report of 'NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS)' by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Ministry of Finance the average landholding for farming has decreased from 1.08 hectares in 2016-17 to 0.74 hectares in 2021-22.

Land and agriculture are the state subjects, as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support under various schemes/ programmes. It has implemented several initiatives to address the issue of shrinking landholdings and support small and marginal farmers, such as promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to improve collective bargaining power and encouraging land consolidation and cooperative farming through various state-level programs.

(c): As per the NAFIS report, the number of agricultural households taking loans have increased from 47.4% in 2016-17 to 52.5% in 2021-22. The Government has taken steps to increase formal credit excess through institutional lending which has increased from 60.5% in 2016-17 to 75.5% in 2021-22. Programs like interest subvention on crop loans cherish the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for short-term loans availed through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for agriculture and allied activities has been implemented to facilitate credit as concessional interest rates.

Besides to ease the burden of Small and Marginal Farmers, Government of India is implementing many other schemes such as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna for providing income support to farmers, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) for mitigating their weather risk and by fixing MSP and procurement of produce to mitigate price risk.
