

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:392

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

AGRICULTURAL PROFESSION

Kataria Shri Rattan Lal;Singh Shri Virendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes and programmes under implementation for the growth of agriculture sector and the benefits of the small and marginal farmers;
- (b) whether a large number of farmers have given up farming over the years as agricultural profession has become unremunerative to them and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified deficiencies and the reasons for slow down of agriculture sector, giving up of farming by farmers, marketing problem, lack of storage and transportation facilities, unremunerative prices for farm produce and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring radical agricultural reforms to alleviate the difficulties being faced by the farmers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise agriculture and ensure that the farmers do not quit agriculture in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 392 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2015.

(a): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a number of schemes viz. Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission of Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (ISAC), Integrated Scheme on Agri-Census & Statistics (ISAC&S), National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to ensure growth in agriculture sector and for the betterment of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(b) to (e): As regards profitability of agriculture, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has conducted Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of agricultural households during its 70th round (Jan-2013 to Dec-2013) to provide a comprehensive socio-economic study of the Indian farmers covering level of living, farming practices, possession of productive assets, awareness, resource availability, indebtedness etc. The survey shows at an all India level the average monthly receipts from crop production, per agricultural household, exceeded their average monthly paid out expenses for selected crops.

The average growth rate of agriculture sector (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery sub-sectors) has shown an increase from 2.5 percent during the 9th Plan and 2.4 percent during the 10th Plan to 4.1 percent during 11th Plan (As per the Economic Survey 2013-14). Further, for the 12th Plan (2012-17), a growth target of 4 per cent has been set for the agriculture sector. This has been made possible due to increased investments in the sector, including improving rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), higher level of procurement and competitive markets. These efforts have increased the buoyancy in the sector.

Agriculture Marketing is regulated by State Governments through Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation (APMR) Acts popularly called APMC Acts. The main objective is to regulate market practices and attain transparency in transactions in order to ensure fair price discovery. This department is persuading the States/UTs to reform their marketing regulations and provide enhanced investment in development of post-harvest marketing infrastructure including storage.

The Government has taken a number of steps to bring reforms in the sector which includes rationalization of all existing schemes of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) into the following major schemes; a) Krishonnati Yojana; b) National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); c) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY); and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Through these

schemes Government would focus on: i) land, water and other related asset reforms; ii) credit; iii) insurance to protect farmers from both yield and price losses; iv) price control through price stabilization fund; v) promotion of organic farming; vi) issue of soil health card for improvement of soil health and; vii) improving support services related to science & technology, agro-meteorology, farm inputs, farm services, cooperatives, extension training, knowledge, marketing and trade.