

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3369
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST JANUARY, 2019

CSDS REPORT AND AGRI-EXTENSION SERVICES

3369. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 76 per cent of the country's farmers would prefer to do some other work than farming and they need immediate help and any further delay will only increase their suffering and lead to greater unrest as per the report prepared by the Centre for the study of Developing Societies, released in March 2018, based on a survey of 5,000 farm households across 18 States;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has studied the aforesaid report;
- (c) if so, the other findings thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon;
- (d) whether agricultural extension services are almost non-existent today;
- (e) if so, whether there is a need to provide expert advice by trained officials at farmers doorstep at the beginning of every crop season regarding all issues like which crops to sow, technology, market prices, soil fertility, irrigation; and
- (f) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon and the steps taken by the Union Government to provide expert advice to the farmers at their doorstep?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): No such report by Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) of March 2018 has been received in the Department.

(b) & (c): Question does not arise.

(d) to (f): No Madam. A multi-tiered extension strategy with a blend of various extension & outreach initiatives is being followed under Sub-mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE) with a view to empower farmers with the latest knowledge and information in agriculture and all allied sectors.

Contd...2/-

Government has taken various steps to provide expert technical advice to farmers on their door step through its ongoing Schemes and programmes. Besides creating awareness, requisite capacity building & extension support is provided at the village level through trainings, demonstrations, farm schools, farmer field schools on farm trials etc. under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE); Sub- Mission on Mechanization (SMAM), National Food security Mission (NFSM), Sub-Mission on Plant Protection (SMPP) and Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMS&PM) of DAC&FW.

ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) component of SMAE also supports provision of expert advice by a team of trained dedicated extension functionaries at State, District, Block and Village level (one person over every two villages).

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of DARE, ICAR provide expert advice to farmers on various aspects of farming during training programmes, field visits, farmers-scientists interface, Kisan goshties, farmers fairs, mobile phones, farm radio and television programmes through their Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs).

Agriculture related information and expert advice is also provided to the farmers through Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) set up under SMAE. The KCCs have toll free telephone lines accessible through all mobile phones and landlines of all telecom networks including private service providers, on which farmers can call any time between 6 AM to 10 PM on all 365 days.

Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension (MMSAE) component of SMAE supports using existing infrastructure of Door Darshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) to telecast/ broadcast agriculture and allied sector programmes with focus on technology, market prices, soil fertility, irrigation etc.

Agriculture related information and advisory is also provided through SMSs sent to registered users under farmer.gov.in Further, Department has developed and popularised Kisan Suvidha App which provide all relevant information to the farmers through mobile phones right at their door step.
