

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4966
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2019

TRANSPORTATION FACILITY FOR FARMERS

4966. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue of transportation in rural areas including North Bengal for the farmers to carry their produce to the main markets to get the best price for their output;
- (b) the details of alternatives the Government is looking forward to so that the farmers can carry their produce easily to the main markets for higher profits; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps for doubling the income of the farmers across the country including Jalpaiguri and North Bengal and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government of West Bengal has informed that they have been promoting construction of different type of roads connecting different markets with producing farms under "construction of farm to market link road". It has been further informed that, 22 Regulated Market Committees of the State are also utilising their own funds for construction of different connecting roads to markets. From 2015-16 to 2018-19, 311 numbers of market link roads of 622 KM length have been constructed with allocation of Rs. 12770.00 lakh.

Subsidy @ Rs. 10,000/- is provided to the beneficiaries for buying manually driven Van Rikshaws that help the farmers to carry their agricultural produce from farm to market to get remunerative price. As reported, total 31215 number of beneficiaries have received the subsidy from Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and State fund in last three years (from 2015-16 to 2018-19).

(b): There are various government schemes under which assistance is available for transportation facilities to help farmers carry their produce easily to markets. Some of the schemes under which assistance is available are as under :

(i) Under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), sub scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), mobile infrastructure for post-harvest operations including grading, packaging, quality testing, reefer vans etc. are permissible for assistance.

(ii) Under AMI scheme, Refrigerated van as a transportation vehicle is eligible for subsidy assistance for Integrated Value Chain (IVC) projects.

(iii) Subsidy for refer van is available under the scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

(c): The Government is taking several measures for doubling the income of the farmers across the country including Jalpaiguri and North Bengal for which some of the major programmes are as under:

(i) Distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) – Per drop more crop (PDMC) initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged, for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.

(iii) “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)” for promoting organic farming.

(iv) Crop Insurance Scheme of “ Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) “ for providing insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post- harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers for risk mitigation.

(v) Under “Har Medh Par Ped”, agro forestry is being promoted for additional income.

(vi) Giving a major boost for the farmers’ income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all major Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.

(vii) Launch of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) initiative to provide farmers with an electronic trading platform for facilitating online transparent and competitive bidding system for better price discovery by farmers for their produce.

(viii) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)’ aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

(ix) 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.

(x) Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.

- (xi) National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xii) Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.
- (xiii) 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 @ 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.
- (xiv) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector and Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at Rs. 13.50 lakh crore.
- (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 months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xvi) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.
- (xvii) 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 provides for a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
