

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.571
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JUNE, 2019

INCREASING PRODUCTION OF FARMERS

571. SHRIMATI RANJAN BEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to increase agriculture production in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any step in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake development of perspective plans and ensure effective implementation of the programmes/ schemes with respect to agriculture production. Also, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/ Programmes. The Government has launched various schemes which focuses on achieving higher productivity, reducing cost of cultivation and remunerative price on the produce. As a result of these initiatives, the country has been witnessing record food grain production. As per Third Advance Estimates for 2018-19, total food grain production in the country is estimated at 283.37 million tonnes which is higher by 17.62 million tonnes than the average production of food grain of previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18). Also, the Horticulture production in the country reached a record output of 306.8 million tonnes (3rd Advance Estimate), due to increase in area under horticulture crops from 23.24 million ha to 25.66 million ha and productivity from 11.07 MT/ha to 11.96 MT/ha.

The Government has taken various steps by making inter-alia various interventions viz. developing/provisioning of improved crop seeds; livestock and fish culture; water use efficiency; pest management; improved farm practices; improved nutrient management; agricultural insurance; credit support; markets; access to information and livelihood diversification for a better agriculture production and welfare of the farmers.

In addition, the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) includes programmatic interventions like Soil Health Card(SHC), Paramparagat Krishi VikasYojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER), Rainfed Area Development (RAD), National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and Sub-mission on Agro Forestry (SMAF) and Pradhan Minister Krishi SinchaiYojana (PMKSY) with a vision to better agriculture production. Assistance is also provided under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for stress tolerant/ climate resilient varieties of seeds /food grains.

(d): Does not arise in view of above.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 571 due for 25.06.2019 Statement in respect of Part (a) to (c) of the Question regarding 'Increasing Production of Farmers'

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Most of the schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes such as:-

- (i) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (ii) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.
- (iii) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (iv) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" under which organic farming is being promoted.
- (v) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, Government has launched a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.
- (vi) Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (vii) 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)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (x) 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.
