

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1318
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

MODERN AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

1318. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of modern agricultural equipment and technology to farmers in the country;
- (b) whether the small and marginal farmers are getting the benefits of these facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the district of schemes implemented by the Government for setting up agro-based industries and food processing units in rural areas along with the benefits received by the farmers from these schemes;
- (d) the details of the policies formulated by the Government for providing compensation and relief to farmers during natural calamities like drought, flood etc., State-wise; and
- (e) the status of implementation of the major programmes being run by the Government to achieve the target of doubling the income of farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

- (a) & (b): Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments for infusing modern and smart farming technologies into the agriculture sector. The use of modern machines including kisan drones is promoted under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). Under National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA) program, funding is given to State Governments for Digital Agriculture Projects using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IOT), Blockchain etc. A component called “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied sectors. The funds are released to the States based on their proposals.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country from 2015-16. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The PDMC also supports micro level water storage, water conservation/management activities as Other Interventions (OI) to supplement source creation for Micro Irrigation. During the years 2015-16 to 2021-22, the PDMC was implemented as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). From the year 2022-23, the PDMC is being implemented under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Micro-irrigation helps in water saving as well as reduced fertilizer usage through fertigation, labour expenses, other input costs and overall income enhancement of farmers. The Government provides financial assistance @ 55% for small and marginal farmers and @ 45% for other farmers for installation of Drip and Sprinkler systems under the PDMC. The Assistance for installation of Micro-irrigation systems is limited to 5 hectares for a beneficiary.

(c): In order to ensure overall development of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a Central Sector Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)”, Central Sector “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)” and centrally sponsored “PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)” Scheme. Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid/ subsidy to entrepreneurs for setting up such industries across the country. The projects are selected for assistance based on Expression of Interest (EoI) issued from time to time. Under PMKSY Scheme, government has approved 1646 projects having project cost of Rs. 31,858.53 Cr with approved grants-in-aid/ subsidy of Rs 9,110.08 Cr and private investment of Rs 22,748.45 Cr under corresponding component schemes of PMKSY. Out of 1646 projects, 1087 projects have been operationalized benefiting 33,17,538 farmers. Under PMFME scheme, a total of 1,16,148 micro food processing enterprises has been approved so far for credit linked subsidy and 3,13,218 members of Self Help Groups supported for seed capital amounting of Rs. 1042.06 Cr. in rural and urban areas of the country. Further, 171 proposals under different categories of Product Linked Incentive scheme for Food Processing sector (PLISFPI) have been approved and a total subsidy of Rs 1084.01 Cr has been disbursed so far.

(d): The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments. The State Governments provide financial relief to the affected people in the wake of notified disasters, including drought from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at their disposal. However, in the event of disaster of a severe nature such as drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost, additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per the laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation.

(e): For improving the lives of farmers and increasing their income, the Government has substantially enhanced the budget allocation of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare from Rs. 21,933.50 crore BE during 2013-14 to Rs. 1,22,528.77 crore BE during 2024-25. This enhanced budgetary provision has been made to facilitate the efforts of the Government towards the following:

- i. Income support to farmers through PM KISAN
- ii. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- iii. Institutional Credit for agriculture sector
- iv. Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) at one-and-a half times the cost of production
- v. Promotion of organic/natural farming in the country
- vi. Per Drop More Crop
- vii. Micro Irrigation Fund
- viii. Namo Drone Didi
- ix. Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- x. National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
- xi. Agricultural Mechanization
- xii. Providing Soil Health Cards to farmers
- xiii. Setting up of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) extension Platform
- xiv. Launch of the National Mission for Edible Oils – Oil Palm
- xv. Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- xvi. Improvement in farm produce logistics
- xvii. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) - Cluster Development Programme
- xviii. Creation of a Start-up Eco system in agriculture and allied sector
- xix. Increase in Export of Agri and Allied Agri- Commodities

Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures, budgetary support and through various schemes/ programmes.

The various schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and provide income support to the farmers.

The initiatives of Government are yielding good results with a resultant increase in the income of the farmers. As part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Indian Council of Agricultural Research has released a compilation of success stories of 75,000 farmers, out of innumerable successful farmers, whose incomes have increased more than two times". The Survey on Household Consumption Expenditure (2022-23) of the NSSO has mentioned a statement, showing a comparison of the estimates of all-India average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as under:

Sector	Average MPCE (Rs.) over different period	
	2011-12 NSS (68 th round)	2022-2023
Rural	1,430	3,773
Urban	2,630	6,459
Note: For the years 2011-12 and 2022-23, estimates are based on Modified MRP (MMRP)		

Further, the Department of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) in all of the 28 States and 2 Union Territories viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with the objective to increase food grain production through area expansion and productivity enhancement. Under NFSNM, assistance is given through State governments to the farmers for interventions like cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, distribution of seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs)/hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/soil ameliorants, processing & post-harvest equipments, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc. The mission also provides support to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back-stopping and transfer of technology to the farmer under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists/Experts.
