

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:850
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
SOCIAL SECURITY FOR FARMING FAMILIES
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal of social security like old age pension, insurance, scholarships, marriage assistance etc. is presently provided by the Government to small, marginal farmers, farm labourers and their families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to uplift the livelihood of the farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)to(c): The agricultural workers along with others are presently availing benefits under existing schemes being implemented by various Ministries/Departments. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme persons of the age of 65 years and above are entitled to receive pension. An assistance of Rs.10,000 in the event of death of the bread winner in a family is available under the National Family Benefit Scheme. Janshree Bima Yojana provides insurance cover to the persons living below or marginally above the poverty line and for the workers in the unorganized sector including agricultural labourers. The redesignated Universal Health Insurance Scheme is also available for the families living below poverty line (BPL) which inter- alia include agriculture labourers also at subsidized annual premium of Rs.165, Rs.248 and Rs.330 for individual, for a family of five and for a family of seven respectively. The scheme provides for reimbursement of hospitalization expenses upto Rs.30,000 on floater basis per family, coverage of death of worker due to accident (Rs.25,000) etc.

Very recently, the National Rural Health Mission providing integrated comprehensive Primary Healthcare Services, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society including agricultural labourers has been launched.

- (d): In order to make the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic with the objective to increase production and productivity thereby enhancing income level of farmers, the Government has taken many initiatives which include
- (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure;
 - (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs;
 - (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system;
 - (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture/activities;
 - (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
 - (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system;
 - (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and
 - (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk-management apparatus for farmers.