

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5011
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2019

ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING

5011. DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) to double the income of farmers by 2022, if so, the details thereof along with the details of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and whether these are related to ZBNF, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is claiming to double income of farmers by 2022 through various schemes, if so, the details of all such schemes announced during the last three years;
- (c) whether ZBNF is being practiced by the farmers anywhere in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether ZBNF is being used globally, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Organic farming practices including Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) promote use of low cost inputs, hence, lead to savings to farmers. Realizing the potential and benefits of organic farming in the country, Government of India has been promoting organic farming for the welfare of farmers through the dedicated scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16. Under PKVY, flexibility is given to States to adopt any model of organic farming including ZBNF depending on farmers' choice.

Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), States can avail funds for any agriculture development projects including ZBNF with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC). The State of Andhra Pradesh has been implementing ZBNF under RKVY scheme.

(b): Various interventions have been taken by the Government for implementing recommendations of Doubling of Farmer's Income (DFI), which are given at **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d): The following States are practicing ZBNF under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) & Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

(i) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been promoting ZBNF through Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS). As on date, the programme has reached out to 5.23 lakh farmers in 3011 villages duly touching all 664 mandals in AP, across all the 13 districts, covering an area of 5.01 lakh acres under PKVY and RKVY.

(ii) Karnataka has initiated implementation of ZBNF in the 10 Agro-climatic zones on Operational Research Project (ORP) mode.

(iii) Himachal Pradesh has taken up ZBNF in their State through scheme "Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan".

(iv) Haryana has taken ZBNF in 80 acres land at Gurukul, District Kurukshetra.

(v) Kerala State has planned to take-up ZBNF.

ANNEXURE –I

Various interventions has been taken by the Government for implementing recommendations of Doubling of Farmer's Income (DFI)

- (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) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (v) A crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) 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 has been launched.
- (vi) 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 Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (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. 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.
- (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 of 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, 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 aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups. About 14.5 crore farmers are expected to be covered under the Scheme.
- (xviii) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years. The scheme aims to cover around 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years. It would be a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 years. The Government has approved a budgetary provision of Rs. 10774.50 crore for the scheme till March, 2022.
