



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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Shri **Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav**, M.P. and Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16), presented the Twenty-fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare) to Lok Sabha today, the 2nd May, 2016.

Some of the important recommendations of the Committee are as under:

<p>Viability of Agriculture</p>	<p>Having noted that due to ever rising cost of agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides etc., alongwith the vagaries of climate change coupled with a myriad of other problems like increasing land fragmentation, depleting soil health, lowering of water table, lack of easy access to institutional credit and not getting the best price for their produce, the agriculture sector is no longer a viable vocation, the Committee impressed upon the Government to take a stock of the situation in a holistic manner and work in real earnest to bringing a turnaround of the agriculture sector.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 3)</p>
<p>Share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in Central Plan.</p>	<p>While expressing their satisfaction over the increase in plan allocation of the Department, the Committee were of the opinion that this increase is just incremental and falls way short of what the agriculture sector actually needs. Taking into focus the plight of farmers and being well aware that the country has miles to go before it can achieve the goal of Food and Nutritional Security for all, the Committee urged the Ministry of Finance to increase the share of the Department in</p>

	<p>Central Plan so that various schemes undertaken by them do not suffer for want of funds</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 5)</p>
<p>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)</p>	<p>The Committee noted that the programme architecture of PMKSY envisages a 'decentralized State Level planning and projectised execution' Structure that will allow States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans(DIPs) and State Irrigation Plans(SIPs) prioritising the immediate needs of a State. Having noted that as on date 148 draft DIPs have been prepared and are in the process of approval by State Level Sanctioning Committees and that the Government is expecting that DIPs for all districts would be ready by September 2016. Being of the firm conviction that formulation and approval of DIPs/SIPs are the bedrock of the PMKSY, the Committee recommended that the Department impress upon all States/UTs the necessity and importance of formulating and approving their DIPs/SIPs by the stipulated timeline.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 12)</p>
<p>Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)</p>	<p>Keeping in view the fact that farmers need to be explained the benefits of PMFBY before they are totally convinced that by subscribing to PMFBY they would actually be safeguarding their crops from damage due to vagaries of nature, the Committee desired that vigorous publicity and awareness campaign about the benefits of the scheme may be made amongst farmers in print and media in their vernacular language.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 14)</p>
<p>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</p>	<p>While noting that the differential pricing of agri implements purchased by farmers under RKVY has lead to a peculiar situation wherein particular agri implement is available at different prices in different States and inspite of the subsidy being provided to the farmers, they end up paying more than the market price of the implement, the Committee recommended that the Ministry to look into this matter at the earliest and in tandem with the States ensuring uniform pricing of agri-implements under RKVY in the entire country.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 20)</p>

<p>Agri-clinics and Agribusiness Centres by Agriculture Graduates (ACABCs)</p>	<p>Having noted that the scheme aims to provide extension and also to promote self-employment in agriculture sector by way of setting up of agri-ventures, the Committee opined that the Government work towards actively involving agri-graduates in extension related activities like soil-testing and also involve them in educating farmers on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 26)</p>
<p>Sub-mission on Seeds and Planting Material</p>	<p>The Committee emphasized the importance played by quality seed as a vital agricultural input. However, the Committee were concerned about the cases of spurious seeds and pesticides being sold by unscrupulous agents. Being well aware of the turmoil caused to the farmers due to sale of spurious seeds and pesticides, the Committee recommended that swift and strict action be initiated against those indulging in this malpractice and the Department seek exemplary punishment for these racketeers so that they are deterred before venturing into sale of spurious seeds and pesticide.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 27)</p>