



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
PRESS RELEASE

10th March, 2017
18 Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

Shri **Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav**, M.P. and Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2016-17), presented the Thirty Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare) to Lok Sabha today, the 10th March, 2017.

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

Budgetary Support during 12th Plan Period & Allocation of Funds for 2017-18.	For the 12th Plan period, as against the demand of the Department for Rs.3,23,024.42 crore, the outlay approved was Rs.1,34,746.00 crore (41.80%) and the actual expenditure till 16 February, 2017 was only Rs.88,322.54 crore. The Committee are of the view that inadequacy of funds has adversely affected implementation of its various programmes and schemes effectively and efficiently. The Committee
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	<p>have, therefore, recommended that the Department should strongly place its case before the Ministry of Finance for allocation of adequate funds commensurate with the requirement.</p> <p>The Committee have noted that for 2017-18 the BE of Rs.52,655.00 crore for the Department constituting 0.69% of the total budget of Rs.75,46,144.03 crore of GOI, is less as compared to social sector Departments/Ministries such as the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Taking into focus the plight of our farmers, desired level of agricultural credit flow, need for effective and extensive implementation of crop insurance schemes and the set target to double the income of farmers by 2022 the Committee have urged that the share of the Department in Central Plan be increased so that various schemes undertaken by the Department do not suffer for want of funds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 3&4)</p>
<p>Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)</p>	<p>The Committee have noted that the scheme of PMFBY being optional for States, was not being implemented by some of the States/UTs and desired that earnest efforts be made by the Department to impress upon the remaining States/UTs to implement PMFBY in the interest of the farmers. The Committee have further noted inter-alia that the data regarding average time taken for settlement of claims by Insurance Companies and pending claims</p>

	<p>are awaited from States/UTs/Insurance Companies, the Committee have, therefore, desired that an institutional mechanism may be put in place for monitoring expeditious settlement of pending claims by insurance companies within a stipulated time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 7)</p>
<p>Interest Subvention Scheme</p>	<p>The Committee have found that the agriculture credit flow has increased consistently over the years. It was to the tune of Rs.8,77,527.00 crore in 2015-16 including Rs.3,79,997.67 crore for small and marginal farmers against set target of R.8,50,000.00 crore and the target for 2017-18 is Rs.10.00 lakh crore. However, the Committee have noted with concern that the budgetary allocation of Rs.15,000.00 crore for the Interest Subvention Scheme is far below the actual requirement due to a huge backlog of dues to settle the audited claims from banks. The Committee taking into account, the estimated cumulative liabilities of Rs. 41,748.00 crore including the carry over balance liability of Rs.23,472.00 crore and estimated claim amount of Rs.18,276.00 crore for the year 2016-17, have urged that additional budgetary support be provided to the Department at the RE Stage. The Committee have also desired that the recommendations made by the Sarangi Committee for suggesting feasible measures/options for improving targeted lending to</p>

	<p>small and marginal farmers, may be considered and implemented at the earliest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No.9)</p>
<p>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)</p>	<p>The Committee have noted that budgetary support for the scheme has been reduced at RE stage during the last two years for PDMC component of PMKSY. In 2015-16, BE of Rs.1,800 crore was reduced to Rs.1,550 at RE stage and in 2016-17, the BE of Rs.2,340 crore has been reduced to Rs.1,990 crore at RE stage. For 2017-18, an amount of Rs.3050 crore has been allocated for PDMC component of PMKSY. The Committee have, therefore, stressed that the Department should take all steps to ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds for PMKSY and in this context, urged that District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans from the States/UTs be obtained in a time bound manner so as to ensure effective implementation of the scheme. Further, they have recommended that the States/UTs which have been affected by drought need to be given special attention for the implementation of the Scheme.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 10)</p>
<p>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</p>	<p>The Committee have inter-alia observed that there has been drastic reduction of funds for RKVY during 12th Plan period against the plan outlay of Rs.63,246.00 cr for the scheme. RE for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 were respectively Rs.8,400.00 cr, Rs.7,089.00 cr. & Rs.8,444.00 cr. In 2015-16, BE of Rs.4500.00 cr. was curtailed at RE stage to</p>

	<p>Rs.3,900.00 cr. In 2016-17, BE of Rs.5400.00 crore was reduced to Rs.3,800 crore in 2016-17 at RE stage. BE for the current fiscal is Rs.4500.00 crore. The Committee have noted that only 12 State Agriculture Plans (SAP) and out of 652 districts, only 247 District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) have been prepared as on 15.02.2017 and that the Department does not circulate the national priority areas and special sub-schemes under RKVY, to States/UTs in advance. They have therefore, recommended that the entire scheme of RKVY may be reviewed holistically and constraints involved in the smooth implementation of RKVY may be addressed in consultation with all States. The Committee have also desired that a definite timeline be set for the preparation and submission of DAPs/SAPs by the States and that he Department should periodically circulate national priority areas and proposed special sub-schemes under RKVY to States/UTs to enable them to prepare and submit their annual proposals and action plan in time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 11)</p>
<p>National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)</p>	<p>The Committee have noted that reduction in allocation of funds adversely affect the implementation of the scheme smoothly and efficiently. The Committee have, therefore, recommended that the Department should conduct a through review of all aspects of the scheme (NMOOP) for increasing oilseeds production in the country and come out with result oriented initiatives</p>

	<p>for both optimum utilization of budgetary support and for increasing oilseeds production in the country in a mission mode. The Committee have also urged the Department to impress upon the Ministry of Finance to allocate adequate funds for NMOOP at RE Stage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 13)</p>
<p>Soil Health Cards</p>	<p>The Committee having noted that inadequacy of Soil testing facilities has been the main reason for slow progress in the distribution of Soil Health Cards and that the BE for 2017-18 is Rs. 450 crore, have urged that genuine efforts be made in coordination with all concerned to issue soil health cards to targeted 14 crore farmers by May-June, 2017. The Committee have also recommended that the procedure for soil testing may be reviewed to find out more reliable and scientific way to analyze soil status and its fertility accurately, for generation of Soil Health Cards for judicious use of chemical fertilizers and micro nutrients by the farmers for increasing production and productivity of their crops. The Committee have strongly recommended that rural youths trained in Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABCs) may be involved as consultant for soil testing from time to time and to advise the farmers about the appropriate doses and nutrients required for improving the soil health and its fertility.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 14)</p>