

249/2023

(Pages : 2)

Maximum : 100 marks

Time : 1 hour 5 minutes

Instructions :

1. The following matter should be dictated to the candidates loudly and distinctly and only Once, at the rate of 120 words per minute.
2. Speed should be regulated at every quarter of minute.
3. Before commencement at the dictation, the candidate should be asked to take down the matter in short-hand and transcribe into longhand in ink.

Dear fellow members of parliament,

India's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, which not only provides food to the population but also provides raw materials to various industries. Despite agriculture / contributing around 17% to India's GDP and employing about 50% of the workforce, our farmers are facing numerous challenges. It is important to address these issues to ensure the prosperity // of our farmers and the growth of our economy.

Water is a scarce resource in many parts of the country, and our farmers are heavily dependent on the monsoon season /// for their crops. While the government has initiated various irrigation projects to help farmers to have access to water throughout the year, there is still a need to develop more (1) such projects and to maintain them effectively. The Indian government should invest more in irrigation facilities to ensure that our farmers do not suffer due to the lack of water. / Agricultural productivity in our country is quite low and is one of the major factors contributing to the income loss of farmers. This is largely due to the use of // outdated farming techniques and inadequate access to modern technology. The government should encourage farmers to adopt modern farming practices by providing them with access to better seeds, fertilizers, and machinery. /// Providing farmers with training and knowledge on modern farming techniques can also help increase productivity.

The agricultural market in India is heavily influenced by middlemen and the government policies are (2) not effective in addressing the issue of price fluctuation. This leads to low prices for farmers, which directly affects their income. The government should create policies that can ensure reasonable / prices for farm produce and provide subsidies to farmers in case of unprofitable rates for their crops. In our country, farmers depend on moneylenders for finances due to limited access // to institutional credit facilities, and as a result, they fall into a debt trap. The government should encourage and facilitate the availability of institutional credit facilities which would make it /// easier for farmers to access funds essential for farming, and take the burden of debt off their shoulders.

Natural calamities and unpredictable weather patterns have a significant impact on the (3) crop yield of farmers. Despite these challenges, many farmers do not have a viable insurance program to protect their crops. The government needs to ensure that crop insurance programs are / universal and affordable for farmers in India. Additionally, the government should provide safety nets to support the farmers in case of crop failures or other unforeseen calamities. India's farmers and agriculturists // are the backbone of our economy and society, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are well taken care of. The issues faced by our farmers are complex /// and need a multidimensional approach to address them. The Indian government should initiate effective policies that can help farmers to overcome the challenges, reduce their burden of debt and ensure (4) food security in the country.

Apart from the challenges mentioned above, farmers in India also face difficulties in accessing markets and transportation facilities. The lack of proper storage and transportation / facilities often leads to wastage of crops and loss of income for farmers. The government should invest in building better infrastructure, such as warehouses, cold storages, and transportation networks to // ensure that farmers can easily transport their produce to markets without any losses. Many farmers in India do not have legal ownership of the land they cultivate, which makes them /// vulnerable to exploitation by landlords and middlemen. The government needs to ensure that farmers have secure land tenure rights, which would enable them to make long-term investments in their farms. (5)