

# 'India should domestically produce farm products that are now imported'

**Prabhudatta Mishra**

New Delhi

Pitching for an *Atmanirbhar Krishi* (self-sufficient agriculture), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exhorted people to allow Indian farmers to reap its benefits as the country has been spending as high as ₹2 lakh crore annually to import a few farm products which can be domestically produced.

Pointing out that earlier the country was depended on the world for food security, Modi said, "But our farmers not only made us self-reliant, but today because of them we have also been able to export. We have made it easier for farmers to access domestic and international markets. But we also have to keep in mind that whether it is self-reliance or exports, our aim should not be limited only to rice and wheat." The share of rice and wheat was nearly half



The agricultural budget has increased five fold since 2014, the Prime Minister said PTI

at \$11.79 billion in export of major agri produce (as promoted by APEDA) worth \$24.76 billion (₹1,84,769.23 crore) in 2021-22.

## **EDIBLE OILS**

The Prime Minister also said that in 2021-22, about ₹17,000 crore was spent on the import of pulses, ₹25,000 crore on value-added food products and ₹1.5 lakh crore on edible oils. "About ₹2 lakh crore

were spent on the import of only these three (segments) which means this much money went outside the country. This money can reach our farmers, if we become self-sufficient in these agricultural products, too. For the last few years, decisions are being taken in the Budget to take these sectors forward. We increased MSP, promoted pulses production, increased the number of food parks. Along with this, work is also going on in mission mode to become completely self-sufficient in edible oil," Modi said.

Addressing a webinar on provisions made for the agriculture and co-operative sectors in the next year's Budget, Modi said the agricultural budget, which was less than ₹25,000 crore before 2014, has been increased to more than ₹1.25 lakh crore now. "Every Budget in recent years has been called a budget for Gaon, Gareeb and Kisan," he said.