

Biggest-Ever UP Budget Rings In Amrit Kaal

Power-Pack: 100% Waiver On Electricity Bill Of Pvt Tubewells

Team TOI

Lucknow: In a major relief to state farmers, the UP government has announced 100% waiver on power bill of private tubewell consumers. The step announced in the state budget and coming a year before the Lok Sabha elections, will require an expenditure of Rs 1,950 crore.

On Wednesday, the state



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government tabled the budget that provisioned doubling of the subsidy on the use of electricity for tubewells. The move attains much significance in the wake of the fast approaching summers when the farmers would be needing more water to irrigate their fields. The state al-

so kept the focus on establishment of 17000 'Kisan Pathshalas' in the new financial year. The concept was mooted by the UP government under its Million Farmers' School (MFS) programme which was one such innovative effort to enhance farmers' incomes through dissemination of agriculture-related information on technology, government schemes, and modern farming methods. At the same time, the state government announced establishment of Mahatma Buddha Agriculture and Technology University at Kushinagar for which a sum of Rs 50 crore has been earmarked.

Agricultural sustainability too drew the vital focus with the state government provisioning Rs 984.54 crore and Rs 631.93 crores for National Agricultural Development Scheme and National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture scheme, respectively.

Ensuring coverage to the farmers in the eventuality of a natural calamity, the state government allocated 753.70

V Sunil



Finance minister Suresh Khanna presenting UP's biggest-ever budget with special focus on welfare of farmers, youth and women in the assembly on Wednesday. CM Yogi Adityanath also seen in the picture

crores for the National Crop Insurance scheme.

The state government also underlined the cane industry as the "key agro-based sector" and the "mainstay of the livelihood" of around 46 lakh cane growers. Finance minister Suresh Khanna was quick to highlight that the area under the cane cultivation has increased from 27.60 lakh hectares in 201-22 to 28.53 lakh hectares in 2022-23. Khanna said that with the increase in su-

garcane productivity by 1,00,875 tonnes per hectare, the income of farmers has increased to Rs 34,656 per hectare at an average rate of Rs 349 per quintal. In Rabi marketing year 2022-2023, the minimum support price of wheat was fixed at Rs 2015 per quintal. As against this, 3.36 Lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat was purchased from 87,991 farmers and Rs 675 crore was paid through the portal, he said. Similarly, under the Kharif marketing year 2022-

23, the centre fixed Rs 2040 for common category and Rs 2060 per quintal for grade-A paddy.

While purchasing 62.66 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, Rs 12,000 crore has been paid directly into the bank accounts of 10.30 lakh farmers through the portal. Khanna also laid stress on the state government transferring more than Rs 51639 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, in 2022-2023.