

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3362
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/03/2023

BEEJ APPLICATION

3362. SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the objectives of the Beej application launched by the Ministry;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to ensure widespread adoption of the Beej application; and
- (c) the details of other such applications launched by Government to facilitate smart farming techniques and bring convenience to farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a). & (b): No Sir, No such application has been launched so far. However, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is operating Seed Net India Portal to provide information on various seed related aspects to the stakeholders.

(c): The details some other applications to facilitate the smart farming techniques are as under:

- i) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) developed by the Institutes Agricultural Engineering Subject Matter Divisions (SMD) to reduce the time taken to perform the operation in different crops .
- ii) Precision Agriculture: Digital technologies such as Global Positioning System (GPS), sensors, drones, and machine learning algorithms are used in precision agriculture to monitor soil conditions, crop growth, and weather patterns.
- iii) Climate-smart Agriculture: Digital technologies are being used to develop climate-smart agriculture practices that can help farmers adapt to climate change. For example, farmers can use weather forecasts and data analytics to optimize irrigation, planting, and harvesting, reducing the impact of droughts and floods.
- iv) New technologies such as robotic harvesters, vertical farming, and blockchain-based supply chain management systems that improve efficiency and reduce waste have been possible due to digital technologies.
- v) Under plan scheme viz. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) wherein, funds are released to the State(s)/UT(s) for project involving use of modern technologies viz. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Drones, Data Analytics, Block Chain etc.

- vi) National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Digital services are provided to traders, farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO), Mandis through various modules of e-NAM platform such as FPO trading module, warehouse based trading module.
- vii) PM-KISAN Mobile App was launched where farmers can view beneficiary status, update or carry out corrections of name based on their Aadhaar card and also they can see history of benefits transferred to their bank accounts.
- viii) Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing schemes (AGMARKNET) to promote creation of agricultural marketing infrastructure by providing backend subsidy support to State, cooperative and private sector investments Services are provided through (AGMARKNET) portal which is a G2C e-governance portal that caters to the needs of various stakeholders such as farmers, industry, policy makers and academic institutions by providing agricultural marketing related information from a single window. It facilitates web- based information flow, of the daily arrivals and prices of commodities in the agricultural produce markets spread across the country.
- ix) Kisan Suvidha mobile application to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., Weather; Market Prices; Plant Protection; input Dealers (Seeds, Pesticides, Fertilizers) Farm Machineries; Soil Health Card; Cold Storages & Godowns, Veterinary Centres and Diagnostic Labs. With market information, farmers are better informed about markets to sell produce, prevailing market prices and quantity demanded in the market. Thus, they can make informed decisions to sell produce at the right price and right time.
- x) The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has also compiled more than 100 mobile apps developed by ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the areas of crops, horticulture, natural resources management and integrated subjects, offer valuable information to the farmers, including package of practices, market prices of various commodities, weather related information, advisory services, etc. and uploaded on its website.
