

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 500
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

WEATHER-BASED CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

500. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has implemented any weather-based crop insurance scheme in Maharashtra to protect farmers from climate-related risks;
- (b) if so, the details of coverage and impact of such schemes in the State; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve weather forecasting for agriculture in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) along with Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBICS), introduced in the country from Kharif 2016 season, is voluntary for States and farmers. Maharashtra State Government has subscribed to both the Schemes since inception. As on 30.10.2024, since inception of the scheme till 2023-24, 25.81 lakh farmer applications have been enrolled under RWBICS. Further, as against the premium of Rs.1409.17 crore paid by farmers, claims of Rs.5955.86 crore have been paid to the farmers in Maharashtra under RWBICS. The scheme is very beneficial for horticultural crop growing farmers who incur economic crop loss due to adverse climatic conditions.

(c): To improve the weather forecasting, State Government of Maharashtra has started Mahavedh Project in joint venture with Skymet company in 2017-18. Under the project, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) are installed at Revenue Circle level (10 to 12 village cluster). The weather data on rainfall, wind velocity, wind direction, humidity and temperature is collected through these AWSs.
