

O.I.H.

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 52
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

CONTRIBUTION OF STARTUPS TO AGRICULTURE

*52. SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR :

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

- (a) whether innovative technologies of agricultural start-ups contribute in making agriculture sustainable and climate resilient;
- (b) if so, whether connecting the technology of agriculture start-ups with farmers through extension is important from the point of view of its accessibility and adoption;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether Government has launched a pilot project called Vistaar to strengthen the agricultural extension system;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of startups related to agriculture and farming sectors State-wise particularly in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.52 FOR 07/02/2025 REGARDING CONTRIBUTION OF
STARTUPS TO AGRICULTURE.**

(a) to (c): “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) promotes innovation and agri-entrepreneurship, by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups. 5 Knowledge Partners (KPs) and 24 RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) provide training & incubate startups for implementation of this programme.

The new and innovative technologies developed by startups contribute to making agriculture sustainable and climate-resilient. Startups working in agriculture sector such as precision agriculture, agri-biotechnology, farm mechanization, waste-to-wealth solutions, etc are helping to control the overuse of pesticides, fertilisers, and irrigation. These solutions enhance resource efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote climate-resilient farming through precision irrigation, organic inputs and renewable energy adoption. Notable innovations include bio-filter-based wastewater treatment, vegan leather from banana stems, and digital platforms for carbon sequestration and trading, etc.

Connecting agriculture startup technology with farmers through extension services is crucial for ensuring wider access and adoption of innovative solutions. Agricultural extension services play a key role in bridging this gap by providing on-ground demonstrations, training programs, digital advisory platforms, and farmer meet-ups. Extensions through incubators, startups engaged with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), FPOs, and rural networks to promote technology and capacity building. Strengthening this linkage accelerates adoption of innovations, improves farmers’ income, and supports climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

(d) & (e): VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System To Access Agricultural Resources) aims to develop a unified digital ecosystem for agriculture by integrating reliable, validated and up-to-date resources across platforms. It focuses on enhancing scalability, accessibility and inclusivity of digital solutions while enabling two-way communication to incorporate farmer feedback by driving center-state convergence, fostering partnerships with stakeholders and aligning with broader efforts of ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.

It supports the development of robust Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agricultural extension. Its goal is to empower farmers with actionable information, streamline collaboration and ensure the long-term sustainability of digital agricultural extension

initiatives. It would enable the farmers & Front Line Extension workers (FLEWs) with accurate and contextual advisories and information on weather, Soil , Pest , Agronomic practices , credit , markets, Govt. schemes etc. These services are delivered through state applications for ensuring last mile connectivity and impact.

(f): Under the “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme of PM-RKVY during 2019-20 to 2024-25, financial assistance of Rs. 124.96 crore has been released to 1749 agri startups through various KPs and R-ABIs. The state –wise details of number of startups including 231 startups in Maharashtra related to the agriculture sectors under the programme is at Annexure.

**ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PARTS (F) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.52
FOR 07.02.2025 REGARDING CONTRIBUTION OF STARTUPS TO AGRICULTURE**

The details of State/UT-wise agriculture start-ups in the country including in Maharashtra supported during 2019-20 to 2024-25 by KPs and R-ABIs under the “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” of PM- RKVY is as under:

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total number of startups
1	Andhra Pradesh	62
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3	Assam	50
4	Bihar	49
5	Chhattisgarh	80
6	Goa	3
7	Gujarat & Daman & Diu & Dadra and Nagar haveli	49
8	Haryana	87
9	Himachal Pradesh	34
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	24
11	Jharkhand	7
12	Karnataka	211
13	Kerala	99
14	Madhya Pradesh	69
15	Maharashtra	231
16	Manipur	22
17	Meghalaya	2
18	Mizoram	25
19	Nagaland	2
20	Odisha	62
21	Punjab	52
22	Rajasthan	71
23	Tamil Nadu	143
24	Telangana	99
25	Tripura	13
26	Uttar Pradesh	88
27	Uttarakhand	33
28	West Bengal	22
29	Delhi NCR	42
30	Andman and Nicobar	1
31	Chandigarh	3
32	Puducherry	1
Total		1749
