

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 679
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/07/2025

SUPPORT FOR MARGINAL AND SMALL FARMERS IN TRIBAL/ SEMI-RURAL AREAS

679. DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest data on the average agricultural landholding size and percentage of marginal and small farmers (owning less than 2 hectares) in tribal or semi-rural districts;
- (b) whether the Ministry has partnered with Agricultural Cooperatives or Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in Panchmahal district to provide shared farm equipment, credit access, and farmer training and the number of farmer beneficiaries during the last three years; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has plans to promote crop diversification, integrated farming systems or climate-resilient agricultural practices among smallholders in semi-rural districts, if so, the details of such initiatives and their current status?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): As per latest Agriculture Census, 2015-16, the average size of operational holding for scheduled tribes and percentage of Operational holdings at all India level are as follows:

Sl. No.	Size Group (less than 2 hectares)	Average size of operational holding	Percentage of Operational holdings
1.	Marginal (Below 1.0 Ha.)	0.48 Ha.	56.23%
2.	Small (1.0-2.0 Ha.)	1.41 Ha.	23.46%

(b): Government approved the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector” on 31st May, 2023, and rolled out as a Pilot Project. The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level, including godowns, custom hiring centers, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government, such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc.

Under the Pilot Project of the Plan, construction of godowns has been completed in 11 PACS of 11 States. Further, more than 500 additional PACS have been identified for construction of godowns.

The Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare, Gujarat had provided the subsidy for the scheme of Agro service provider to two Primary Agriculture Co-operative Society where 108 farmers get benefitted.

Further, the details of the Panchmahal district co-op bank ltd at Annexure.

The Government is implementing a 100% centrally funded Central Sector Scheme known as the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) across various States and UTs in pan India including Panchmahal District.

(c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), in Original Green Revolution States viz., Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc. The Government of India is also providing flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under PM-RKVY and the states can promote crop diversification under PM-RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC).

Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) models developed for the States have been included in the package of practices of respective state Governments. These are popularized among farmers, including small and marginal farmers, through farmer participatory refinement and demonstration of integrated farming systems. The Government has taken several measures to make small holdings more viable. These include adoption of modern technologies and practices like multiple cropping, intercropping and integrated farming systems.

The Government is taking several steps to promote climate resilient agriculture practices in the country. The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Mission aims to implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. Several schemes have also been initiated under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to deal with the adverse climate situations in the agriculture sector. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme increases water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme is implemented as a component of NMSA and focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to promote climate resilient agricultural in 151 climatically vulnerable districts spread across the country, to educate and train farmers on climate-smart techniques and technologies. Large scale demonstrations of climate resilient varieties are undertaken in farmers' fields through KVKs under NICRA. Capacity building programs are conducted to educate farmers on various aspects of climate resilient practices. Farmers are also provided with weather advisories as ICAR in collaboration with India Meteorological Department issues Agromet advisories to farmers through Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva program.

Annexure

Annexure referred to Reply of the part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 679 to be answered on 25.07.2025.

The PANCHMAHAL DISTRICT CO OP BANK LTD.

(Amount Rs.In Lakh)

CREDIT ACCESS

Panchmahal District Loan Sanction Report			2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		Gross Total	
1	Sr No.	Head Of the Loan	Panchmahal District							
			No of Farmer	Amount	No of Farmer	Amount	No of Farmer	Amount	No of Farmer	Amount
	1	KCC	13367	6155.83	19286	8381.38	20614	10633.03	53267	25170.24
	KCC financed under agriculture credit by 102 Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) from the bank.									
	Credit access for Agri Equipment									
	2	Dairy Farming	351	709.77	276	984.96	425	991.98	1052	2686.71
	3	Farm mechaniza tion / Minor Irrigation	12	49.95	25	96.75	24	102.57	61	249.27
	4	Pacs cash credit	3	50	3	67	3	74.75	9	191.75
		Total	366	809.72	304	1148.71	452	1169.3	1122	3127.73
		Gross Total	13733	6965.55	19590	9530.09	21066	11802.33	54389	28297.97

Source: The Government of Gujarat
