

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1453
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31/07/2026

**MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES UNDER AIF IN
CHHATTISGARH**

1453. SMT. LAXMI VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has successfully modernized the post harvest facilities across Chhattisgarh, including in major agricultural hubs like Baloda Bazar;
- (b) the details of new warehouses and cold storage facilities funded in the State;
- (c) Government's action plan for increasing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in agriculture and promoting drone technology; and
- (d) the extent of increase in the income of farmers in Chhattisgarh due the use of these technologies?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) facilitates medium- to long-term debt financing for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and viable farming assets, including warehouses, cold stores, pack houses, sorting and grading units, assaying units, primary processing centres, ripening chambers, logistics facilities etc. The Scheme provides 3% interest subvention and credit guarantee support on loans up to ₹2 crore for eligible borrowers, subject to a maximum lending rate of 9% per annum.

AIF has supported modernization of post-harvest facilities across the country including Chhattisgarh. As on 15.07.2026, under AIF 1,535 projects have been sanctioned in the State of Chhattisgarh with a total sanctioned loan amount of ₹2,218.14 crore and total project cost of ₹4,199.20 crore. In Balodabazar - Bhatapara district, 128 projects have been sanctioned under AIF for creation of post-harvest facilities with a total sanctioned loan amount of ₹165.82 crore and total project cost of ₹303.66 crore. Till date, in the State of Chhattisgarh, under AIF 74 projects of cold stores and cold chain have been sanctioned with a total sanctioned loan amount of ₹197.43 crore and total project cost of ₹322.52 crore. In addition, 638 projects of warehouses have also been sanctioned with a total sanctioned loan amount of ₹721.18 crore and total project cost of ₹1,070.50 crore.

(c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is leveraging satellite-based monitoring and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based analytical systems for forecasting agricultural risks and supporting timely crop management interventions. The Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) which integrates and standardises geospatial and non-geospatial data, including satellite, weather, soil, crop signatures, reservoir and ground water data, enables monitoring of drought conditions, adverse weather events and flood inundation to provide near real-time risk alerts and support crop management interventions to reduce risk of crop loss across states including Chhattisgarh.

BharatVistaar (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) is a multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture. The platform provides farmers with AI-enabled, real-time and location-specific agricultural advisories and access to Government schemes and agricultural support services. The platform is available through a web portal, mobile application, AI chatbot and dedicated telephone line. At present, BharatVistaar Telephone service

is available in 2 languages, i.e. Hindi and English. The chatbot, web portal and mobile application are available in 10 languages.

The Department has launched the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) which is an Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-based platform that provides real-time pest identification, surveillance and expert advisories to farmers on pest management. Further, the system promotes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by recommending bio-control agents and bio-pesticides as the preferred option, while advising pesticides duly approved by the Registration Committee only when necessary and at recommended doses to prevent crop losses.

The Government has also introduced yield-based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to the farmers opting for crop insurance against crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to stabilize the income of farmers. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided under the scheme from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses. Further, with effect from Kharif 2023, Government has rolled out Yield Estimation System based on Technology (YES-TECH) wherein yield estimation is done using satellite imagery and remote sensing data.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras are using Krishi Sarthi a ICT based platform to provide crop specific advisories to farmers. More than 2.97 cr farmers are registered on this platform.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides AI-based monsoon and weather advisories to support informed agricultural decision-making. The advisories enable farmers to plan agricultural operations based on timely and location-specific weather forecasts. As on date, the initiative has reached approximately 5.28 crore farmers.

Further, in order to promote use of drones in agriculture, under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), financial assistance @ 100% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs per drone is provided for its purchase and demonstration on the farmers' fields by the institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), State and other Central Government Agricultural Institutions/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Government of India engaged in agricultural activities. The Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are provided grants up to 75% of the cost of Kisan Drone for its demonstrations on the farmers' fields. In order to make available drone services to farmers on rental basis, financial assistance @ 40% up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs is provided for purchase of drones by Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) under Cooperative Society of Farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Rural entrepreneurs. Agriculture graduates establishing CHCs are eligible to receive financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per drone. For purchase of drones on individual ownership basis, the Small and Marginal, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, Women and North Eastern State farmers are provided financial assistance @ 50% of the cost up to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and other farmers @ 40% up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs per drone.

In addition, the Central Sector Scheme of Namo Drone Didi is being implemented in convergence with other ongoing schemes. The objective of the scheme is to promote advance technology in agriculture for improving efficiency, enhancing crop yield and reducing cost of operation and to empower Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as drone service providers for increasing their income and providing livelihood support to them.

(d): No specific assessment has been undertaken by the Government to comprehensively evaluate the impact of AI-based technologies.
