

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1456
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31/07/2026

AI-BASED INITIATIVES FOR FARMERS

1456. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) the details of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives such as Kisan e-Mitra, National Pest Surveillance System and Crop Health Monitoring currently in operation;
- (b) the number of farmers benefitted by these initiatives, State-wise;
- (c) the manner in which AI-driven advisories are being integrated with existing schemes like Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme; and
- (d) the steps taken to ensure last-mile digital access for small and marginal farmers?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government of India has initiated several Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives such as BharatVistaar (Kisan e-Mitra has been subsumed in BharatVistaar), National Pest Surveillance System used for pest surveillance, crop disease monitoring and AI-based advisory systems for farmers including small and marginal farmers, across the country. Some of the key AI initiatives in this field are as follows:

I. National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS): This system tackles the loss of produce by utilizing AI and Machine Learning to detect pest infestation in crop issues, enabling timely intervention for healthier crops. This tool allows farmers to capture images of pests to help them mitigate pest attacks and reduce crop losses. At present, it covers 73 crops for 436 pests. AI-based analytics using field photographs for satellite-based crop mapping is being used in Crop-weather matching and monitoring of crops sown. As of today, 35,565 advisories have been issued through the application.

II. BharatVistaar: 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.

To date, the platform has served over 5.9 lakh farmers and addressed more than 93 lakh farmer queries. It provides information on 18 Central Government schemes, crop and livestock advisories, weather forecasts, mandi prices, pest and disease identification, soil health-based recommendations, grievance redressal, etc.

The platform is available through a Chatboat (web portal & mobile application), and through a dedicated telephone line.

III. KISAN SARATHI: Krishi Vigyan Kendras are using Kisan Sarthi, an ICT-based platform developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), to provide crop-specific advisories to farmers. More than 2.97 crore farmers are registered on this platform from across the country, including those from the State of Telangana.

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

(c): AI-driven advisories on scheme information, benefit tracking and Grievance redressal are integrated with existing schemes like PM-KISAN through the BharatVistaar platform.

(d): BharatVistaar telephone service is also available through basic phones ensuring last mile digital access to agricultural services to small & marginal farmers. Further, the Government provides digital access to farmers including small and marginal farmers through mobile alerts, Web-portal, Chatboat, Telephone lines, SMS, and social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube etc.
