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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 40
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH DECEMBER, 2023

"NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE PLAN IN AGRICULTURE"

*40.   SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to State:

(a)   whether the Government is implementing National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture;

(b)   if so, the details of funds provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh for use of modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Drones, Data Analytics, etc. used in agriculture and its value-chain during the last five years and the current year, year-wise; and

(c)   the details of Digital Public Infrastructure and the manner in which it helps in addressing the farmer-centric solutions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री   (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c):   A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 40 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.12.2023 REGARDING "NATIONAL e-GOVERNANCE PLAN IN AGRICULTURE"

(a) to (c):　　Yes, Sir. The National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA) scheme was initially launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2010-11 in selected states to achieve rapid development of agriculture in India through the use of Information and Communication Technology. This scheme was subsequently extended in 2014-15 to cover all the States/Union Territories. NeGPA guidelines were amended in 2020-21 to incorporate projects involving the use of modern Information Technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Block chain Technology, the Internet of Things, Robotics, etc. Central Government considers the proposal submitted by State Government in line with the NeGPA guidelines. The details of funds provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh for use of modern technologies during the last five years is as under:

Year	Project Name	Central share	Amount released
2020-21	Unified Digital Programme (UDP) for Agriculture	Rs.425.70 Lakh	Rs.425.70 Lakh
2021-22	Implementation of Phase-II "Unified Digital Platform app to operate Rythu Bhrosa Kendralu (RBKs)"	Rs.2667.6 Lakh	1st installment of 25% of Central share i.e. Rs. 666.9lakh has been released.

　　The Unified Digital Platform caters to various farmer services under one roof by bringing together all supply-chain stakeholders, farmers, local NGOs, Agriculture input companies, Government agencies, Private businessesfor the implementation of all agricultural services.

　　Further, Government has taken various steps to provide access to technology and information across the country to address the farmer-centric solutions, through various digital initiatives, such as:

i.　Government has built Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture as an open source, open standard at interoperable public goods as per budget announcements for the 2023-24. In this regards, Architecture of three core registries i.e. Farmer registry, Geo referencing of village map registry, crop sown registry has been finalized. These

registries can be used to develop various farmers centric solutions by the state governments as well as private sector entities.

ii. Under PM KISAN Scheme, fund is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode. Farmers can do their self-registration through the Farmers Corner in the portal. PM-KISAN Mobile App was launched to broaden the reach of the scheme where farmers can view beneficiary status, update or carry out corrections of name based on their Aadhaar card and also they can see history of benefits transferred to their bank accounts. Recently, face authentication feature has also been included in PM-KISAN mobile App.

iii. National Project on Soil Health and Fertility:-Issuance of soil health cards to farmers of the country, so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices. Soil Health Card Portal is available where farmers can track soil samples.

iv. Several new technological initiatives has been taken under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana such as Yield Estimation System, based on Technology (YES-Tech), Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) portal and door to door enrollment app AIDE/Sahayak. YES-TECH, a technology-driven yield estimation system, offering methodologies, best practices, and integration insights for accurate yield assessments at the Gram Panchayat level. WINDS Portal is a centralized platform that hosts, manages, and processes hyper-local weather data collected by Automatic Weather Stations and Rain Gauges at Taluk/Block and Gram Panchayat levels. The portal enhances risk assessment and decision-making in crop insurance, agriculture advisories, and disaster mitigation, supporting the agricultural sector and rural economy.

v. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Digital services are provided to traders, farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO), Mandis through various modules of e-NAM platform such as FPO trading module, warehouse based trading module.

vi. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF): To mobilize a medium - long term debt finances facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support in order to improve agriculture infrastructure in the country. Financial assistance is provided digitally in the form of Interest Subvention and Credit Guarantee for setting up post-

harvest management Infrastructure to beneficiaries such as Farmers, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHG), State Agencies/APMCs.

vii. National Mission on Horticulture: It Promotes holistic development of Horticulture sector (including bamboo & coconut) HORTNET project is a web enabled work flow-based system for providing financial assistance under MIDH. It is a unique intervention to accomplish e-Governance in NHM where-in total transparency has been envisaged in all the processes of workflow i.e., online application filing, authentication, processing and online payment to the beneficiary's bank account through DBT.

viii. To create awareness on use of Kisan Drones, the government under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is providing financial assistance for its purchase and demonstration on the farmers' fields. To promote technology in the rural development and agriculture sectors government has approved 15 thousand drones to women through Self-Help Groups. Drone Didi program enhance the women capabilities and improve their livelihood.

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