

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3520
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2019

USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

3520. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any scheme to provide aid to the farmers for use of modern information technology and e-Commerce technology and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the farmers in the country are deprived of the weather related information and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government has taken following initiatives by utilizing modern Information Technology :

- I. In order to provide better marketing facilities for farmers, the Government is implementing National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme for transparent price discovery for remunerative prices for the farmers for their produce through competitive online bidding system. So far, 585 wholesale regulated markets of 16 States and 02 UTs have been integrated with e-NAM platform. Under the scheme, technical support and assistance is provided to States/UTs for implementation of e-NAM apart from training support to all stakeholders including farmers for e-NAM.
- II. AGMARKNET provides a nationwide information network established for speedy collection and dissemination of market information and data for its efficient and timely utilization. It also facilitates collection and dissemination of information related to better price realization by the farmers. Farmers can get market related information such as market fee, market charges, Price related information minimum, maximum, modal prices and arrivals.

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- III. Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre regularly generates crop forecasts at District/State/National level for 9 major crops of the country, using Space and related technology.
- IV. The Department has also developed and made functional SMS/m-Kisan Portal for sending advisories on various crop related matters to the registered farmers through SMSs.

(b) & (c): For providing the weather related information to the farmers in the country following initiatives have been taken:

- I. Farmers in the country are provided with weather related information along with advisories through different modes of communications like Radio, Television, print media, Short Message Service (SMS). Kisan Suvidha app developed by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare provides information, inter-alia, on weather, input dealers, market prices, plant protection and expert advisories. Further, Officers, Scientists and Experts from all the concerned Organizations and Departments of the Government of India and the State Governments (including State Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Agro-Meteorological Field Units) are using m-kisan portal for disseminating information (giving topical & seasonal advisories and providing services through SMSs to farmers in their local languages) on various agricultural activities to the registered farmers.
- II. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is venturing into implementation of block level Agrometeorological Advisory Service (AAS) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the country. District Agromet Units (DAMUs) are being established in the Krishi Vikas Kendra (KVK) under ICAR network. Implementation of block level AAS would address the micro-level variation in weather and climate and hence, more number of farmers will be benefitted.
- III. Further, agriculture related information including 'weather conditions' is provided to the farmers through Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) operating from 21 locations using a toll free number, which is accessible through all mobile and land line phones of all telecom networks including private service providers. The replies to the farmers' queries are given in 22 local languages.
