

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2319
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH MARCH, 2021

E-GOVERNANCE FOR AGRICULTURE

2319. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched the National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States where it is being implemented along with the aims and objectives;
- (c) the challenges faced by the Government while implementing the plan and achievements made since its inception;
- (d) whether the Government has also launched Phase II of the scheme, if so, the quantum of funds allocated/released to the States/UTs;
- (e) whether the Government has also amended NeGPA guidelines, if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has also launched Unified Farmers Service Platform, if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives behind the move; and
- (g) the names of the programmes currently being run under the National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture and the role played by the public and private sectors in these programmes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) was initially launched in 2010-11 in 7 pilot states with aims to achieve rapid development in India through use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for timely access to agriculture related information for the farmers. The key objectives of the Project include:

- Bringing farmer centricity & service orientation to the programs
- Enhancing reach & impact of extension services
- Improving access of farmers to information & services throughout crop-cycle
- Building upon, enhancing & integrating the existing ICT initiatives of Centre, and States
- Enhancing efficiency & effectiveness of programs through process redesign
- More effective management of schemes of DAC
- Promoting a common framework across states

Under the scheme funds were released to States for procurement of hardware, site preparation, training, State Project Monitoring Units, data Digitization, connectivity upto Block Level, consumables, dissemination of agriculture related information through ICT means, customization of applications as per State/UT specific requirement etc.

(d) Phase-II of the scheme commenced from 2014-15 which was extended for all the remaining States and 2 UTs. The quantum of funds allocated/released to States/UTs during last three years is as under:

	In Rs. Lakhs	
Year	Allocation	Release
2017-18	1750.06	1748.00
2018-19	3100.00	2278.09
2019-20	2600.00	2192.07

(e) In 2020-21, following the recommendations made by Doubling of Farmers Income committee, NeGPA guidelines were revised envisaging sanctioning of funds to States/UTs for projects involving use of modern Information Technologies mentioned above such as Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Block Chain Technology, Internet of Things, Robotics etc., and for customization / shifting of web & mobile applications already developed by the States, to the platform to be developed using digital/emerging technologies.

(f) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is developing a Unified Farmer Service Platform (UFSP) consisting a Federated Farmer Database comprising of a nationwide land linked Federated Database of "Verified" Farmers and various services related to farmer identification and authentication which shall be built on top of it.

(g) Under the revised guidelines funds are only sanctioned to States/UTs undertaking/implementing projects involving new & emerging technologies described in (e) above.
