

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 118
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH JULY, 2021

CREATION OF NATIONAL FARMERS DATABASE

*118. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has engaged with private companies to develop India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture and implement pilot projects;
- (b) if so, the companies with which the Government has entered into MoUs for digitizing agriculture records along with the details of MoUs;
- (c) whether the MoUs involve sharing land records of farmers with private companies;
- (d) if so, the details of protection provided for sharing such data with private companies alongwith criteria based on which these companies were chosen;
- (e) whether the Government aims to create a National Farmers Database and whether the digitized land records will be used to create such database and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to include “landless farmers” in the database; and
- (g) whether the Government will use this database for choosing beneficiaries of schemes of the Government, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27th JULY, 2021.**

(a): The Department has commenced the work for creating Agristack in the country. In order to create Agristack, the department is in the process of finalising “India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA)” which will lay down a framework for Agristack. Accordingly, a Task Force has been constituted and in furtherance a Concept Paper on IDEA has already been floated for comments from the general public not only through department’s website but also through emails especially to subject matter specialists, Agro-Industry, Farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The IDEA would help in laying down the architecture for the Agri-stack in the country and that would serve as a foundation to build innovative agri-focused solutions leveraging emerging technologies to contribute effectively in creating a better Ecosystem for Agriculture in India. This Ecosystem shall help the Government in effective planning towards increasing the income of farmers in particular and improving the efficiency of the Agriculture sector as a whole. As a first step in this direction Government has already initiated building federated farmers’ database that would serve as the core of the envisaged Agristack.

No private sector companies are involved as far as building of the Agristack is concerned. However, leading Technology/Agri-tech/StartUp companies were identified and invited to collaborate with the Government of India to develop Proof of Concepts (PoC) based on small portions of data from the federated Farmers’ database for certain identified areas (Districts/Village). A public call through the Department’s website has been placed inviting proposals for PoCs. MoUs purely on pro bono basis with selected companies are being signed, for a period of one year to develop PoCs. The PoCs will help in understanding solutions that can be built using available data and some of them, if found beneficial to the

farmers will be scaled up at National level. There is no connection between the MoUs and the IDEA Consultation Paper for which comments were sought from various stakeholders in the country.

(b): The details of MoUs entered by this Department are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): As of now, the federated farmers' database is being built by taking the publicly available data as existing in the Department and in various data silos in Government and linking them with the digitised land records. This Department in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of bringing out a data policy for the agriculture sector. Government would ensure the data privacy of the Farmers' personal data only for sharing with any private organization.

(e): Yes, the Government aims to create a federated National Farmers Database and the digitized land records will be used as data attributes for creating this database. To bring dynamism to the farmer's database, the linkage with digital land record management system is essential. The database is envisaged to facilitate online single sign on facilities for universal access and usher in proactive and personalised services to farmers such as direct benefit transfer, soil and plant health advisories, weather advisories, irrigation facilities, seamless credit & insurance facilities, seeds, fertilizers, pesticide related information nearby logistic facilities, market access information, peer to peer lending of farm equipment etc. The aim is to increase farmers' income by leveraging the available data and developing solutions based on the data so that the input costs are reduced, ease of farming is ensured, quality is improved and farmers get better price for their farm produce. If any States have already built such system, then, endeavour will be to make use of the same and build on top of that.

(f): At present, farmers' database will include the farmers, who are legal owners of the agriculture land as per the government database and as endorsed by the State Government. In future, the possibility of including others may be considered in consultation with State Governments & other Stakeholders.

(g): Once developed, federated national farmer database will help to deliver personalized and proactive services to farmers. Government can make use of the database for targeted service delivery with higher efficiency and in a focussed & time bound manner.

Details of MoU entered by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with leading Technology/Agri-tech/StartUp companies to develop Proof of Concepts (PoCs):

- I. Microsoft India Pvt. Ltd. - for consolidating agri ecosystem across the value chain (farm to fork) to empower the farmer using Data Analytics. In this regard, 100 villages have been selected and a pilot is being carried out by Microsoft and their local partner.
- II. ESRI India Technologies Limited - for Establishment & Launch of “Nation Agriculture Geo Hub” and for using their ‘ArcGIS’ platform enabling a GIS layer over Farmers’ Database.
- III. Amazon Web Services India - for digital services across the agri value chain and creating an innovation ecosystem around digital agriculture.
- IV. Star Agribazaar Technology Private limited - for collaborating with Department of Agriculture for a pilot project in 3 Districts (Kota in Rajasthan, Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Guna in Madhya Pradesh) to promote digital agriculture.
- V. Patanjali Organic Research Institute private Limited - for farm management and farmers service in 03 districts (Haridwar in Uttarakhand, Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh and Morena in Madhya Pradesh).
