

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 185
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2022

NEW SCHEME UNDER PPP MODE

*185. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is proposing to launch a new scheme in Public-Private Partnership(PPP) mode under which farmers will be provided with digital and hi-tech services, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is proposing a Start-up fund with blended capital facilitated through NABARD for agriculture and rural enterprise, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to promote the use of “Kisan Drones”; and
- (d) the details of other steps being taken by the Government with an emphasis on the start-up ecosystem in agriculture?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 185 FOR 15.03.2022 REGARDING NEW SCHEME UNDER PPP MODE.

(a): Government has proposed following steps to provide digital and hi-tech services which will open up opportunities for Private Entrepreneurs:

- i. Digital Agriculture Mission has been proposed.
- ii. The Department has constituted a high level Task Force, which is in the process of finalizing a report on India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA) which would lay down the architecture of Digital AgriStack with unique ID for farmers, and standards for interoperability between various data streams in the Agristack. This would open up possibilities for developing services and solutions by Private Entrepreneurs.
- iii. Provisions are being made under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to fund private agritech players.

(b): Government of India has made an announcement in the Union Budget 2022 regarding the setting up of a fund routed through NABARD under a co-investment model to finance startups in the agritech space.

(c): Yes, Government is providing financial assistance through Sub Mission on Agricultural (SMAM) to Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs), Indian Council for agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for drone demonstrations and for establishment/upgrading the Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs)/ Hi-Tech Hub for providing agricultural services by using drone technology. Drone service providers can also avail benefits of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

(d): A component called "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied

sectors. A total of 799 start-ups have been selected in various areas of agriculture and allied sectors under this programme for providing financial support through Knowledge Partners and Agri Business Incubators appointed by DA&FW for implementation of this programme.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has been supporting Agri-based startups under the project called National Agriculture Innovation Fund (NAIF) initiated in year 2016-2017. It has two components viz. I. Innovation Fund; II. Incubation Fund and National Coordinating Unit (NCU):

- i. Component I : 10 Zonal Technology Management Units and 89 Institute Technology Management Units (ITMUs) established in 99 ICAR institutes provide a single-window mechanism to manage innovations, showcase intellectual assets, and pursue matters related to intellectual property (IP) management and transfer/commercialization of technologies in these institutes.
- ii. Component II : Agri-business Incubator Centres (ABICs) are set up to speed up the delivery of the new technologies to stake holders. The ABICs are the nodal point to provide the desired link for Agriculture Research &Development (R&D) Institutions for incubation/ commercialization of the validated technologies. So far, 50 Agri-Business Incubation Centers have been established and are operational in the ICAR network under the NAIF scheme.
