

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 108**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024

**KRISHI SAKHIS CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME**

\*108. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has released the latest (17th) installment of Kisan Samman Nidhi to the farmers in the country and if so, the details thereof including the total number of farmers likely to be benefitted by this;

(b) whether the Government proposes to give certificate to more than 30,000 self-help groups under Krishi Sakhis Convergence Programme (KSCP) and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to impart different kinds of training to women under KSCP programme to transform rural India through the empowerment of rural women as Krishi Sakhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of Krishi Sakhis given such certificate so far; and

(e) the details of other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fulfill the financial needs of farmers and create awareness among them regarding various schemes of the Government?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT MADE IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 108 REGARDING KRISHI SAKHIS CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME RAISED BY SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE, MP DUE FOR REPLY ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024.**

(a): The PM-KISAN scheme is a central sector scheme launched in February 2019 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers. Under this scheme, the financial benefit of Rs 6,000/- per year in three equal installments is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The PM-KISAN scheme is one of the largest DBT Schemes of the World.

A farmer-centric digital infrastructure has ensured the benefits of the scheme reach all the farmers across the country without any involvement of the middlemen. Maintaining absolute transparency in registering and verifying beneficiaries, the Government of India has disbursed over Rs 3.24 lakh Cr to more than 11 Cr farmers in 17 instalments, so far. The 17th installment of PM-Kisan Scheme was released in June, 2024 to over 9.26 Cr farmers families amounting to more than ₹ 20,000/- Cr.

(b) to (d): To leverage the strength and realizing the significant role & contribution of Krishi Sakhis in agriculture and to further enhance the skills of Krishi Sakhis, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development signed a MoU on 30.08.2023 to train Krishi Sakhis in Natural Farming and Soil Health and to give **para-agriculture extension workers certificate** to 70,000 Krishi Sakhis under the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP) after completing the training.

Krishi Sakhi certification program has been rolled out in 12 states in Phase – 1 viz. Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Meghalaya.

Krishi Sakhis are trusted community resource persons and experienced farmers. To equip them with the skills needed to effectively support and guide fellow farmers, they have undergone extensive 56-day training by the State Rural Livelihood Mission. This training ensures that Krishi Sakhis are well prepared to assist and mentor other farmers in their communities. The training covers following range of agricultural practices:

- Agro-ecological practices from land preparation to harvest
- Organizing Farmer Field Schools
- Soil health and plant nutrient management
- Pest and disease management
- Establishment and maintenance of Agri Nutri gardens
- Seed systems
- Soil and moisture conservation practices

- Integrated farming systems
- Basics of livestock management
- Preparation and use of bio-inputs, and establishment of bio-input shops
- Basic communication skills

After completion of training, Krishi Sakhis have to pass a written test, as on date 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 51,849 Krishi Sakhis out of 70,000 have been trained on Natural Farming and Soil Health. Out of total 51,849 trained, a total of 34,973 Krishi Sakhis have been given ***Agriculture Para-extension Worker Certificate***. Which will enable them to take up various MoA&FW schemes activities on the fixed resource fees.

(e): The Government of India has launched several initiatives to support farmers financially and raise awareness of available schemes. These include:

1. **Insurance Schemes:** Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) provide insurance coverage against natural calamities and weather-related risks.
2. **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme:** Offers low-interest loans for various farming activities, enhancing access to credit.
3. **Minimum Support Price (MSP) and e-NAM (National Agriculture Market):** The MSP system guarantees a fair price for crops, while e-NAM connects farmers with markets nationwide, improving price realization.
4. **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):** With a budget of Rs. 1 lakh crore, this scheme aims to provide medium- to long-term debt financing for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets. The fund offers interest subvention and credit guarantee support.
5. **Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):** The government has launched a Central Sector Scheme to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs with a budget outlay of Rs. 6,865 crore.
6. **Namo Drone Didi Initiative:** This initiative provides drones to 15,000 selected women self-help groups for rental services to farmers, aiding agricultural activities.
7. **Sub- Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM):** Agricultural machinery and equipment are provided to farmers at subsidized rates.
8. Subsidies on inputs like fertilizers, seeds, and machinery, along with the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), help reduce costs and boost agricultural infrastructure.

Crucial information and training awareness programs are provided through Kisan Call Centers and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) so that farmers can utilize the information for better agricultural yield. Digital platforms and mobile apps further disseminate knowledge on market prices, weather and best practices to help farmers in optimizing their profit.

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