

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION No.3614**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**LACK OF TECHNICAL STAFF IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

**3614 SHRI BHARAT SINGH KUSHWAH:**

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

- (a) whether marginal and small farmers often face delay in getting information about soil testing, certified seeds, mini kits, crop-cycle, irrigation and pesticides use, new schemes, etc at the local level due to lack of technical staff in Agriculture Department of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to start a Pilot Project as an innovation to provide information about soil testing reports, crop cycle, fertilizers, seeds, pesticide use in crops, new schemes etc. to small and medium farmers at the local level through mobile van equipped with technically skilled staff at the Development Block level viz outsourcing; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this could be implemented?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms’ popularly known as ATMA is under implementation since 2005. Presently, this scheme is being implemented in 739 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs in the country including 52 districts of Madhya Pradesh. The scheme promotes decentralized demand-driven farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to supplement the efforts of State Government to disseminate latest agricultural technologies in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector. This include providing information to the small & marginal farmers about soil testing, certified seeds, mini-kits, crops cycle, irrigation and pesticides use, new schemes etc, through training, demonstrations, exposure visits, kisan mela, mobilization of ‘Farmers Interest Groups’ and setting-up of ‘Farm Schools’ in the field of progressive farmers. There is a provision in the ATMA Scheme Guidelines that at least 50% of the beneficiaries must be small and marginal farmers.

The ATMA is under implementation in all the States of the country including Madhya Pradesh. The details of manpower provided under ATMA Scheme in Madhya Pradesh are given as under: -

(i) **STATE LEVEL:** The State Nodal Cell, ATMA comprises of State Nodal Officer, State Coordinator, Gender Coordinator and supporting staff, whereas 'State Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETI)' comprises of Director, Deputy Director, Accountant-cum-Establishment Clerk and Computer Programmer. The number of Deputy Directors are deployed on the basis of number of blocks under implementation of ATMA Scheme.

(ii) **DISTRICT LEVEL:** The manpower deployed at district level comprises of Project Director (01 No.), Deputy Project Director (02 No.), Accountant-cum-Establishment Clerk (01 No.) and Computer Programmer (01 No.).

(iii) **BLOCK LEVEL:** The manpower deployed at block level comprises of Block Technology Manager (01 No.), Assistant Technology Manager (02 to 04 No.) depending on size of Block.

**Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) scheme in the Country including in Madhya Pradesh with mandate of single window agricultural knowledge, resource and capacity development centres for dissemination of latest agricultural technologies including among the farmers including small and medium ones. The activities of KVKs include on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields; capacity development of farmers for knowledge and skill up gradation; and production of quality seeds, planting materials and other technology inputs for availability to the farmers. In order to develop awareness of improved agricultural technology among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs. The KVKs are district level institutions and there are 54 KVKs in Madhya Pradesh under the scheme.

Besides, the State Agriculture Department of Madhya Pradesh has reported that more than 5000 field functionaries are positioned in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh to facilitate the farmers on various aspects of farming including information dissemination on soil testing, certified seeds, mini kits, crop cycle, irrigation and pesticides use, new Schemes etc.

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