

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3666
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17TH December, 2024

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

3666. SHRI NAVASKANI K:

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

- (a) the major initiatives undertaken by the Government to improve infrastructure facilities in the agriculture sector over the last five years;
- (b) the total funds allocated and utilized for agricultural infrastructure development, year-wise;
- (c) the details of the key projects completed and their impact on farmers;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any recent projects for improving irrigation infrastructure;
- (e) if so, the details of these projects and their current status;
- (f) whether the Government has prioritized small and marginal farmers in its agricultural infrastructure development programmes;
- (g) if so, the details of such targeted initiatives; and
- (h) the measures being taken to increase their access to these facilities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The major initiatives undertaken by the Government in order to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure are 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund', Agricultural marketing Infrastructure (AMI), National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc. are being implemented. The brief details of the schemes is as below

- (i) Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package. AIF was introduced with a vision to transform the agriculture infrastructure landscape of the country. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through 3% interest subvention and credit guarantee support. The Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore under the scheme will be disbursed from FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 and the support under the scheme will be provided for the duration of FY2020-21 to FY2032-33. Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE and NABSanrakshan for loans up to Rs. 2 Crores. Further, each entity is eligible to get the benefit of the scheme for up to 25 projects located in different LGD codes. As on 30.11.2024, Rs. 51,783 Crore have been sanctioned by lending institutions

for 85,314 projects under AIF, out of this total sanctioned amount ₹39,148 crore is covered under scheme benefits. These sanctioned projects have mobilized an investment of Rs. 85,208 crore in agriculture sector.

- (ii) Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) under which assistance is provided for construction/ renovation of godowns/ warehouses in the rural areas in the States to enhance the storage capacity for agriculture produce. AMI is demand driven scheme in which subsidy is provided at the rate of 25% and 33.33% on capital cost of the project based on the category of eligible beneficiary. Assistance under this scheme is available to Individuals, Farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Agripreneurs, Registered Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives and state agencies etc. The scheme is demand driven.
- (iii) National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme, a virtual platform integrating physical wholesale mandis/ markets of different States/ Union Territories (UTs) to facilitate online trading of agriculture and horticulture commodities to enable farmers to realize better remunerative prices for their produce.
- (iv) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under which financial assistance for setting up of Post-Harvest Management Infrastructure including cold storage, cold room facilities for horticultural produce @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% in case of hilly and scheduled areas per beneficiary is available. The component is demand/entrepreneur driven through commercial ventures for which Government assistance is credit linked and back ended.
- (v) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which the funds are released to the State Governments as Grants-in-Aid on the basis of projects in Agriculture & allied sectors approved in the State Level Sanctioning Committee Meeting (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State, which is the empowered body to approve projects under the scheme. In this scheme States has flexibility and autonomy in the process of selection, planning, approval and execution projects in agriculture and allied sectors as per their priorities. RKVY is primarily a project oriented scheme, the benefit of which is available to all sections of the farming community. From 2015-16, the funding pattern of RKVY changed from 100% central share to 60:40 between Centre and States whereas 90:10 between Centre and North Eastern & Himalayan States. For UTs it remains 100% as Central share.

Out of 1 Lakh Crore Year wise loan Sanction under AIF

SN	Financial Year	Sanctioned Projects	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. Cr.)
1	2020-21	5,682	3,838
2	2021-22	5,785	5,749
3	2022-23	15,973	13,031
4	2023-24	33,915	17,399
5	2024-25	23,959	11,766
Total		85,314	51,783

(d) and (e): The Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) supports projects aimed at improving agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation-related initiatives. Convergence with Component-B & C of the PM-KUSUM scheme with AIF supports setting up of solar-powered pumps facilitating irrigation systems for farmers. Under B component AIF cover Install stand-alone solar agriculture pumps with a capacity of up to 7.5 HP and under C Component Solarize existing grid-connected agriculture pumps with a capacity of up to 7.5 HP. As on date total of 1,007 projects have been sanctioned by various lending institutions involving loan amount of Rs 31.72 crore under PMKUSUM convergence

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) was implemented as a component of PMKSY during the year 2015-16 to 2021-22. From the year 2022-23, PDMC is being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation, namely, Drip and Sprinkler irrigation system. Adoption of Micro Irrigation results in improved water use efficiency, reduced fertilizer usage through fertigation, increase in crop yield and enhancement of income of the farmers. Financial Assistance @ 55% for Small & Marginal farmers and @ 45% for Other farmers is provided by the Government for installation of Micro Irrigation under the Scheme.

Central Assistance released to States for implementation of PDMC Scheme during last five years is as under:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Central Assistance released (Rs. in Cr)	2700.02	2562.19	1796.12	1901.37	2103.50

(f) to (h): The schemes have been designed to benefit small and marginal farmers by addressing gaps in agricultural infrastructure. Investments in logistics infrastructure enables farmers to sell in the market with reduced post-harvest losses and a smaller number of intermediaries. This further will make farmers independent and improve access to market. Also modern packaging and cold storage system access enable farmers to further decide when to sell in the market and improve realization. The AIF Scheme benefits comes as a boon for these weaker section of beneficiaries as they benefit from an interest subvention of 3% per annum for a duration of up to seven years for loans up to ₹2 crore. To further support borrowers, the initiative includes credit guarantee support by way of reimbursement of credit guarantee fees for loans up to ₹2 crore for 7 years, reducing the financial risks for both lenders and borrowers. Small and marginal farmers benefit indirectly through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, and self-help groups (SHGs) that access this funding on their behalf.

For creating awareness about the schemes various conclaves, workshop, training programmes are conducted. Further, widespread promotion various activities are undertaken like publicity in social media platforms, participation in various national and regional level events, seminars, exhibitions/ trade fairs, food festival etc.