

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 389
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025

STARTUPS IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

389 Smt. Bharti Pardhi:
Shri Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne:

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

- (a) whether the new/innovative technologies developed by startups in the agriculture sector contribute in making agriculture sustainable and climate friendly;
- (b) if so, whether linking agriculture start up technology with farmers through extension is important from the point of view of access and adoption thereof;
- (c) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has launched a pilot project called VISTAAR to strengthen/reinforce agriculture extension system and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the number of startups connected to the agriculture and farming sectors existing in the country, State-wise especially in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c) “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) promotes innovation and agri-entrepreneurship, by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups. 5 Knowledge Partners (KPs) and 24 RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) provide training & incubate startups for implementation of this programme.

The new and innovative technologies developed by startups contribute to making agriculture sustainable and climate-friendly. Startups working in agriculture sector such as precision agriculture, agri-biotechnology, farm mechanization, waste-to-wealth solutions, etc are helping to control the overuse of pesticides, fertilisers, and irrigation. These solutions enhance resource efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote climate-resilient farming through precision irrigation, organic inputs and renewable energy adoption. Notable innovations include bio-filter-based wastewater treatment, vegan leather from banana stems, and digital platforms for carbon sequestration and trading, etc.

Linking agriculture startup technology with farmers through extension services is crucial for ensuring wider access and adoption of innovative solutions. Agricultural extension services play a key role in bridging this gap by providing on-ground demonstrations, training programs, digital advisory platforms, and farmer meet-ups. Extensions through incubators, startups engaged with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), FPOs, and rural networks to promote technology and capacity building. Strengthening this linkage accelerates adoption of innovations, improves farmers' income, and supports climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

(d) VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System To Access Agricultural Resources) aims to develop a unified digital ecosystem for agriculture by integrating reliable, validated and up-to-date resources across platforms. It focuses on enhancing scalability, accessibility and inclusivity of digital solutions while enabling two-way communication to incorporate farmer feedback. By driving center-state convergence, fostering partnerships with stakeholders and aligning with broader efforts of ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.

(e) Under the “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme of PM-RKVY during 2019-20 to 2024-25, financial assistance of Rs. 124.96 crore has been released to 1749 agri startups through various KPs and R-ABIs. The state –wise details of number of startups including in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra connected to the agriculture sectors under the programme is at Annexure. Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh has 1 startup.

Annexure

The details of State/UT-wise agriculture start-ups in the country including in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra supported during 2019-20 to 2024-25 by KPs and R-ABIs under the “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” of PM- RKVY is as under:

Sl. No.	States	Total number of startups
1	Andhra Pradesh	62
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3	Assam	50
4	Bihar	49
5	Chhattisgarh	80
6	Goa	3
7	Gujarat	49
8	Haryana	87
9	Himachal Pradesh	34
10	Jammu & Kashmir	24
11	Jharkhand	7
12	Karnataka	211
13	Kerala	99
14	Madhya Pradesh	69
15	Maharashtra	231
16	Manipur	22
17	Meghalaya	2
18	Mizoram	25
19	Nagaland	2
20	Odisha	62
21	Punjab	52
22	Rajasthan	71
23	Tamil Nadu	143
24	Telangana	99
25	Tripura	13
26	Uttar Pradesh	88
27	Uttarakhand	33
28	West Bengal	22
29	Delhi NCR	42
30	Andman and Nicobar	1
31	Chandigarh	3
32	Pondicherry	1
Total		1749
