

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2754
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th AUGUST, 2025

SUPPORT TO AGRI STARTS AND AGRI-PRENEURS

2754. Shri Gopal Jee Thakur:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to support starts-ups and agripreneurs engaging in the field of agriculture and allied sectors;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to support through providing special debt and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) by giving direct sharing support to them; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) from 2018-19 to support starts-ups and agripreneurs engaging in the field of agriculture and allied sectors . 5 Knowledge Partners (KPs) and 24 RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) provide training & incubate startups for implementation of this programme. Under the programme, financial support upto Rs. 5 lakhs is provided at the idea/pre seed stage and upto Rs. 25 lakh at the seed stage to entrepreneurs/ startups in agriculture & allied sector to launch their products, services, business platforms, etc in the market and to facilitate them in scaling up. Till date , financial assistance of Rs. 146.38 crore have been released to 1943 agri startups.

Besides this, National Agriculture Innovation Fund under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) promotes startup ecosystem through its 50 Agri-Business Incubation Centres (ABICs) in ICAR network institutes. These ABICs provide technical support to start-ups and agripreneurs engaging in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

The Government has taken concrete steps to support start-ups and agripreneurs engaged in agriculture and allied sectors through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) launched in July 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The AIF Scheme entails a financial outlay of Rs. 1 lakh crore, aimed at facilitating medium to long-term affordable credit through various lending institutions for setting up post-harvest management infrastructure and viable farming assets in a decentralized manner across the country. Scheme specifically envisions promoting innovation and technology-driven solutions in

agriculture. AIF offers loans at a capped interest rate of 9% along with an interest subvention of 3% per annum on loans up to Rs. 2 crore, available for a maximum period of 7 years. As on 30th June 2025, a total of 47,962 agripreneurs have been extended loans amounting to Rs. 48,330 crore, while 2,303 start-ups have received loans worth Rs. 2,182 crore through various banks and other lending institutions.

The Government has created a SEBI- registered Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) namely Agriculture Funds for startups and Rural Enterprises (AgriSURE). This was launched on 3rd September, 2024, aims to support early-stage agri-startups and rural enterprises by providing capital assistance in equity and debt. Its specific objectives include fostering innovation, promoting high-risk and high-impact activities, and advancing technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, precision farming, climate – friendly solution and digital agriculture. The fund also seeks to improve farmers market access and create rural job opportunities. With a total corpus of Rs. 750 crore, the AgriSURE Fund is blended in nature and has been jointly established by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD), with each contributing Rs. 250 crore. An additional Rs. 250 crore will be raised from other financial institutions, including private entities. The fund is being managed by NABARD's wholly-owned subsidiary, NABVENTURE.
