

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 454
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02ND December, 2025

MODERNISATION OF AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ADOPTION OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

454. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- (a) the details of measures being undertaken to modernise agricultural infrastructure under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, particularly in enhancing post-harvest management, storage, and value-chain efficiency at the grassroots level;
- (b) the details of the steps which have been taken to ensure that the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme reaches all eligible beneficiaries, and steps taken to address issues of duplication, exclusion, or misidentification of farmers in the beneficiary database; and
- (c) the details of the Government strategy to increase the adoption of digital technologies —such as precision farming, satellite-based crop monitoring, and AI-driven advisory systems — for enhancing productivity and resource efficiency?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्यमंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) : The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched in 2020-21 to address gaps in post-harvest management and strengthen agricultural infrastructure. Banks and financial institutions extend loans worth ₹1 lakh crore, with 3% per annum interest subvention from AIF. Credit guarantee coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and NABSanrakshan for loans up to ₹2 crore is supported by Government of India. AIF provides interest subvention for medium- to long-term financing for creation of post-harvest and farming assets such as custom hiring centres, warehouses, silos, cold storages, pack-houses, sorting and grading units, assaying facilities, primary processing centres, logistics/supply-chain infrastructure etc. Interest subvention and credit guarantee together encourage investments by farmers, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Self Help Groups (SHGs), agri-entrepreneurs and start-ups. Projects under AIF have mobilized an investment of ₹1,22,731 crore in the agriculture sector like 39,022 custom hiring centres, 25,721 processing units, 20,917 farm automation units, 17,362 warehouses, 4,032 sorting and grading units, 2,739 cold storages etc.

(b) : To ensure that the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme reaches all eligible beneficiaries, the Government has established multiple enrolment channels including the PM-KISAN web portal, PM-KISAN Mobile App, and Common Service Centres (CSCs). The Government extends administrative funds to States/UTs to facilitate their outreach and promotional activities. The Ministry, in coordination with State Governments, conducts periodic saturation drives to ensure universal coverage. The 21st installment of PM-KISAN was disbursed to 9.34 crore farmers. To address issues of duplication, exclusion, or misidentification, benefits are released only through Aadhaar-seeded Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) based on verified State/UT data uploaded to the PM-KISAN portal. Several technological validations have been introduced, including integration with PFMS for bank-account verification, UIDAI for Aadhaar authentication and removal of deceased beneficiaries, and the Income Tax Department for enforcing exclusion criteria. The PM-KISAN database is additionally cross-checked with PDS ration card records and subjected to automated deduplication across PFMS, UIDAI, and Income Tax datasets. These measures ensure accuracy, transparency, and that only eligible farmers with cultivable landholdings receive the Scheme's benefits.

(c) : The Government of India is implementing the Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM) to promote precision farming, satellite-based crop monitoring, and AI-driven advisories for improving productivity and resource efficiency. The Mission focuses on building a strong Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture, including AgriStack, the Krishi Decision Support System, and comprehensive soil profile mapping. AgriStack comprises foundational databases such as Farmers' Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps, and Crop Sown Registry, enabling timely and reliable crop-related information for farmers. The Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) supports the Mission through satellite-based crop forecasting under the FASAL project, drought monitoring, and technological support to PMFBY through YES-TECH and digital crop-cutting experiments. The Government is also promoting AI and IoT-based solutions for personalized advisories and improved farm management. Key initiatives include the AI-powered Kisan e-Mitra chatbot for farmer queries and the National Pest Surveillance System, which uses AI/ML tools to detect pest infestations and reduce crop losses.
