

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2902**  
ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026

**ANTIMICROBIAL USE IN AGRICULTURE**

2902. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined growing national and international evidence indicating that widespread and poorly regulated antimicrobial use in agriculture, livestock and aquaculture is a major driver of antimicrobial resistance, enabling resistant pathogens to move across animals, humans and the environment;
- (b) if so, the details of data analyzed by the Government on antimicrobial consumption in food production systems, regulatory oversight failures, agricultural practices encouraging routine use, and pathways contributing to resistance gene dissemination in soil, water and food chains; and
- (c) the comprehensive "One Health" strategy proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce antimicrobial stewardship in agriculture, phase out non-therapeutic usage, strengthen monitoring of resistant organisms in livestock and food products and ensure coordinated action with human health and environmental authorities to address the escalating AMR threat?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): No report has been received from any part of the country regarding indiscriminate use of antibiotics in food crops and aquaculture leading to the development and spread of Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR). However, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is undertaking research, surveillance, and capacity building to address Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) in livestock and fisheries sectors. Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes monitor antimicrobial use and resistance patterns in food-producing animals, poultry, and aquaculture, while promoting alternatives such as vaccines, biosecurity, probiotics, and improved husbandry practices.

ICAR has initiated a Network programme for AMR surveillance in 2019 covering the aspects of livestock and fisheries in the country, named as Indian Network for Fisheries and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR), in technical cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) involving 20 animal science centres and 11 fishery centres across India and ICAR- National Institute of Biotic Stress Management contributes to AMR mitigation specifically through:

- (i) Monitoring antimicrobial resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria.
- (ii) Genome-based validation of resistance determinants.
- (iii) Promoting alternatives including biological control agents to reduce antibiotic dependency.

Further, ICAR-National Research Institute of Integrated Pest Management (NRIIPM) promotes ecologically based Integrated Pest Management (IPM), emphasizing biological control, crop rotation, resistant varieties, habitat management, and mechanical methods. Additionally, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through its Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Agriculture Departments, undertakes various training programs, including Farmers Field Schools (FFS), two-day and five-day HRD programs, and 30-day Season-Long Training Programs (SLTP), to educate and train farmers, state agriculture extension functionaries, and pesticide dealers on the safe handling practices of pesticides, control the use of off-label pesticides, need-based & judicious use of pesticides and also the use of chemical pesticides as a last resort only.

(c): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the comprehensive National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance version 2.0 (NAP-AMR 2.0) in 2025, an updated national strategy of India to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) covering the period 2025-2029, through a well defined framework and inter-sectoral collaboration including Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The plan follows a “One Health” approach, targeting AMR across human health, animal health, agriculture, and environmental sectors. Six strategic priorities have been identified under the NAP-AMR: (i) improving awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education, and training; (ii) strengthening knowledge and evidence through surveillance; (iii) reducing the incidence of infection through effective infection prevention and control; (iv) optimizing the use of antimicrobial agents in health, animals, and food; (v) promoting investments for AMR activities, research, and innovations; and (vi) strengthening India’s leadership on AMR.

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