

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3938
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2026

DECLINE IN PM-KISAN BENEFICIARIES IN PUNJAB

3938. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in Punjab the number of PM-KISAN beneficiaries has fallen by about 49 percent over the last five years, from around 23 lakh farmers in 2019-20 to about 11.3 lakh by the 20th instalment in 2025.
- (b) If so, the reasons therefore.
- (c) The number of farmers in Punjab whose instalments are shown as “pending” or “rejected” due to e-KYC, bank or land record issues, district-wise; and
- (d) The steps being taken to promptly rectify genuine cases so that no eligible farmer in Punjab is de facto deprived of the Rupees 6,000 annual benefit?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): The PM-KISAN scheme is a central sector scheme launched in February 2019 to supplement the financial needs of farmers with cultivable landholding. Under the scheme, a financial benefit of ₹ 6,000/- per year is transferred in three equal instalments, into the Aadhaar seeded bank accounts of farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Under the PM-KISAN Scheme, cultivable landholding is primary eligibility criteria to receive benefit of the scheme subject to some certain exclusions relating to higher income status.

To ensure that the benefits are provided only to the eligible beneficiaries, land seeding, Aadhaar-based payment and e-KYC have been made mandatory under the PM-KISAN scheme. Land seeding was made mandatory from the 12th instalment period (August–November 2022) to verify and authenticate whether the beneficiary is the actual cultivable landholder as per the State land records. Aadhaar-based payment became mandatory from the 13th instalment period (December 2022–March 2023) to ensure that benefits are transferred directly to the intended beneficiary’s Aadhaar-linked bank account, eliminating errors and mis-directed payments. Subsequently, e-KYC was made compulsory from the 15th instalment period (August–November 2023) to confirm the identification and alive status of the beneficiary.

It is the mandate of the State Governments to ensure completion of these mandatory requirements for all eligible beneficiaries. The benefits of the scheme are provided on the basis of data uploaded by State/UT on PM-Kisan portal. In Punjab under the PM-KISAN

scheme, 23.01 lakh farmers received the benefit of 4th instalment (December, 2019 - March, 2020) and, 11.34 lakh farmers received the benefit of 20th instalment (April – July 2025), as per the number of beneficiaries verified and approved by the State for payment before the instalment release.

The registration and verification of farmers under the scheme is a continuous process. The list of eligible beneficiaries is uploaded by the respective State/UT Governments on PM-Kisan portal, at the time of each instalment. The verification process is conducted by the field level officials of respective States/UTs to re-verify the status of beneficiary as per guidelines of the scheme and mark them eligible accordingly. The names of the beneficiaries who are not found eligible are removed from the list which is due to various reasons including non fulfilment of mandatory requirements (land seeding, eKYC, Aadhaar seeded bank account), deceased beneficiary, change in status of cultivable landownership, members of same family receiving benefits and NRIs. Once the application is approved by the State Government, the same is processed by this Department immediately and benefit is released in next instalment.

(c): The district wise number of farmers in Punjab who have not completed/fulfilled mandatory requirements of e-KYC, Aadhaar seeding with bank account or land seeding is given as Annexure I.

(d): The Government has undertaken various steps to include all eligible and genuine farmers under the scheme, across the country including Punjab. These steps include:

- e-KYC saturation campaigns were conducted with the support of CSCs. Over 5 lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) have been onboarded to facilitate registrations and meet mandatory requirements, including e-KYC.
- Face Authentication–based e-KYC facility was added to the PM-KISAN mobile app, in June 2023 enabling beneficiaries to complete their e-KYC from home as well as perform e-KYC for up to 100 other farmers. This facility has specially helped old age beneficiaries and also the beneficiaries who live in remote areas, to complete their e-KYC.
- Under the scheme, through regular review meetings with States/UTs have also been pursued to ensure completion of mandatory requirements by beneficiaries i.e. land seeding, Aadhaar-linked bank accounts, and e-KYC in coordination with CSCs, IPPB and banks.
- Village Nodal Officers are appointed by the respective State/UTs to address farmers' issues and around 1.0 Lakhs VNOs covering over 4.0 lakhs villages, have been designated at village level to assist the farmers in completing their mandatory formalities. They can verify the land details of farmers and complete e-KYC of farmers.
- A voice-based PM-KISAN AI Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) was developed by the Government. This Chatbot provides quick, accurate, and clear responses to farmers' queries round the clock in their native languages, making the system more accessible and user friendly. It is accessible on all platforms such as web, mobile, etc. The Kisan eMitra Chatbot currently operates in 11 languages—English, Hindi, Odia, Tamil, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Telugu, and Marathi. This Chatbot also provides information to farmers for completing their mandatory

requirements and has successfully resolved over 95 lakh queries from 53 lakh farmers.

- A major nationwide saturation drive was undertaken from 15th November 2023 under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), during which, more than 1.0 Cr. eligible farmers were included under PM-KISAN. Further, under the new Government's 100 days initiative, over 25 lakh eligible farmers were added under the PM-KISAN scheme. Additionally, a special drive was conducted in September 2024 to clear the pending self-registration cases, which resulted in the addition of over 30 lakh new farmers.

Annexure I

District-wise number of farmers in Punjab with pending status due to e-KYC, bank or land record issues under PM-Kisan Scheme (as on 11/03/26)

S. No.	District	No. of farmers who have not fulfilled mandatory requirement of		
		Land seeding	Aadhaar seeding with bank account	e-KYC
1	Amritsar	8,735	2,640	7,488
2	Barnala	3,138	879	2,485
3	Bathinda	7,395	3,178	10,383
4	Faridkot	4,078	1,041	2,636
5	Fatehgarh Sahib	2,462	1,209	1,614
6	Fazilka	17,258	2,593	11,316
7	Ferozepur	11,751	1,985	9,384
8	Gurdaspur	9,665	3,801	8,279
9	Hoshiarpur	9,809	4,781	6,818
10	Jalandhar	3,820	1,704	4,432
11	Kapurthala	1,252	820	841
12	Ludhiana	5,450	3,697	8,394
13	Malerkotla	1,098	487	1,135
14	Mansa	4,044	1,816	8,552
15	Moga	7,999	1,786	4,297
16	Pathankot	1,803	700	1,661
17	Patiala	8,135	3,206	11,741
18	Rupnagar	5,623	1,574	4,587
19	S.A.S Nagar	2,289	939	2,844
20	Sangrur	9,307	2,615	9,936
21	Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar	1,904	1,090	3,446
22	Sri Muktsar Sahib	7,286	1,441	6,107
23	Tarn Taran	11,936	2,124	5,884
	Total	1,46,237	46,106	1,34,260
