

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 383
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2026**

BAREFOOT TECHNICIANS

383. Adv Dean Kuriakose:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there are a total of 114 Barefoot technicians across six districts in the State of Kerala who have received three month technicians training from the Ministry and have been working for the last nine years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Ministry has issued any notification directing the State Governments to put on hold the services of these Barefoot Technicians and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the honorarium paid to these technicians are continued and they are not terminated from service; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a) & (b): Out of a total of 157 candidates trained through National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) under the Barefoot Technicians initiative, 143 were deployed in the field in Kerala and 111 BFTs have been reported by the State Government to be currently deployed in 103 Gram Panchayat across the State.

(c) to (e): In response to clarification sought by the Government of Kerala regarding the continuation of BFTs, the Ministry vide communication dated 08.07.2026, clarified that section 37(3) of the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act 2025 provides that all appointments, engagements, authorisations, approvals and administrative arrangements made under the repealed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, and continuing immediately before the appointed date shall, unless inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, continue to remain valid and in force until altered, superseded or withdrawn under the provisions of the Act.
