

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 266
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8th AUGUST, 2023

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

*266. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:

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

- (a) the details of the budget allocated to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) in 2022-2023;
- (b) the details of funds already utilized as of July, 2023 along with the domain in which these have been utilised;
- (c) whether the Government has recorded any significant growth in agriculture and allied activities since implementation of this fund in the country particularly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;and
- (d) whether the Government has recorded any increase in the total number of Agro-entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups and Joint Liability Groups currently functioning in the country which received assistance from the fund in 2022-23 and 2023-24 as of July, 2023 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 266 FOR 8TH AUGUST, 2023 REGARDING AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

(a) & (b): Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme was launched in 2020 with an objective to mobilize a medium – long-term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support in order to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure. The scheme envisages provision of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention (IS) of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for loans up to Rs. 2 Crores.

As on 31st July 2023, an investment of Rs 44,208 crore has been mobilized in the country's agriculture sector under this scheme. 33369 projects related to post-harvest management and community farming assets have been approved and a loan amount of Rs 26064 crore has been sanctioned for creating these infrastructures.

In the year 2022-2023, Rs 147.2 crore was spent out of Rs 150 crore allocated in the budget for payment of 3% interest subvention, credit guarantee fee and other scheme administrative expenses under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). In the current financial year 2023-24, Rs.500 crore has been allocated for this scheme, out of which Rs.140 crore has been utilized till 31.07.2023.

(c): Since the implementation of the scheme, significant development has been observed in the Agri-infra landscape of the country. The contribution of Agri Infra Fund Scheme in this regard is very critical. In respect to Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, different type of infrastructure is being created, including warehouses, primary processing Centres, Custom Hiring centre and cold storage etc. Loans to the tune of Rs.5077 Cr. for 6316 projects like primary processing centers, custom hiring centers, cold storage and cold chain, warehouse and other post-harvest management in Madhya Pradesh, Rs.2754 Cr. for 4178 projects in Maharashtra and Rs.1829 Cr. for 2244 projects in Uttar Pradesh have been disbursed.

(d): The Scheme growth trajectory over the years is quite promising and significant number of Agri-entrepreneurs. Farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Self Help Groups and others have availed the benefits under the scheme. In 2022-23,

9166 Agri-entrepreneurs, 5319 farmers, 451 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, 333 Farmer Producer Organizations and 65 Self-Help Groups have taken benefit of this scheme and in the year 2023-24 (up to July 31, 23), 2554 Agri-entrepreneurs, 3098 farmers, 47 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, 93 Farmer Producer Organizations and 14 Self-Help Groups have taken advantage of this scheme.
