

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:709

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENABLED SERVICES TO FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural experts and scientists have called for delivery of information technology-enabled services to farmers to help them enhance crop yield and augment their income;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c): Considering vast geographical area, large number of farmers, numerous regional variations and databases, extensive use of Information and Communication Technology tools is necessary to disseminate relevant information and appropriate technologies among farmers.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has developed 80 portals, applications and websites covering both the Headquarters and its field Offices/Directorates. This includes DACNET, DAC website, DACNET, SEEDNET, NHM, NFSM, RKVY, AGMARKNET and Farmers' Portal. These Portals and web applications aims to provide information to the farmers on various agriculture related programmes & schemes being implemented by the Government of India. The Farmers' Portal is intended to be "One Stop Shop" for all the farmers in the country who can access the same directly or through the Common Service Centres/internet kiosks.

Kisan Call Centre (KCC) aims to provide information to the farming community through toll-free telephone lines (telephone No. 18001801551). Under this Scheme, Call Centre facilities are extended to the farmers through 14 call centers located in different states so that farmers can get the information in their own languages.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture. The Mission Mode Project is being implemented to achieve rapid development of agriculture in India through the use of ICT for ensuring timely access to agriculture related information for the farmers of the country. The current IT initiatives/schemes will be integrated and upgraded under this project, so that farmers are able to make proper and timely use of the available information. Such information is intended to be provided to farmers through multiple channels including Common Service Centers, Internet Kiosks and SMSs. 12 clusters of services have been identified and the project has been sanctioned for implementation in 7 States i.e. Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. IT related projects are also being promoted in all the states under the scheme Agrinet.