

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1462
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014
AVAILABILITY OF LATEST INFORMATION TO FARMERS
Sawant Shri Arvind Ganpat

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to provide latest information/technology to the farmers relating to agriculture;
- (b) the details of the Government agencies associated with the said work;
- (c) the details of the total funds allocated to these agencies during each of the last three years and current year along with the total funds spent thereon year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;
- (d) the total number of farmers enrolled with the public sector agencies like Krishi Vigyan Kendras during the said period, State-wise and category-wise; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to identify input dealers with vested interest promoting use of chemical fertilizers/new transgenic seeds and put a check on such dealers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (d): The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)" in the entire country with a total project cost of Rs.885.79 crore. The project envisages deployment of hardware and roll out of services down to the Block level. Under the National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology, Tablets PCs & Pico Projectors are also being provided to the extension workers to reach out to the village level. Twelve clusters of services (containing nearly 80 components) under NeGP-A are intended to be provided to farmers through multiple delivery channels.

Under the AGRISNET Scheme, 26 States have so far availed financial assistance for specific ICT projects formulated for dissemination of information and to popularize appropriate technology as per local needs of the State. Details are given in Annexure-I.

Under the Central Sector Scheme-Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC), unemployed candidates possessing Degree/Diploma/PG in Agriculture and allied subject are trained in establishing agri-ventures for providing extension and other services to farmers. The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) is the implementing Agency for training component and subsidiaries routes through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Details of funds released, utilized under this project is at Annexure-II.

Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme on Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) approved for implementation from 2014-15, latest technologies for growth of horticultural products are disseminated among farmers through training and demonstrations organized at strategic locations by the State Horticulture Missions. Details of funds released and utilized under this project are at Annexure-III.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms popularly known as ATMA Scheme, financial assistance are provided to the States with an objective to support State Governments efforts of revitalization of the extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies in different thematic areas to increase production through extension activities viz. Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and Setting up of Farm Schools. Details of funds released, utilized and details of State-wise farmers benefitted are at Annexure-IV and V respectively.

mKisan Portal subsumes all mobile based initiatives in the field of Agriculture & allied sectors. It brings together SMS (both Push and Pull), Interactive Voice Response System, Unstructured Supplementary Services of Data or USSD (which is essentially Interactive SMS and can facilitate data entry and query on Web Portals without internet), Mobile Apps and Services. Officers, Scientists and Experts from all over the country are using this Portal for disseminating information (giving topical & seasonal advisories and providing services through SMSs to farmers in their local languages) on various agricultural activities to registered farmers, till date, more than 315 crore SMSs have been sent to farmers by all agencies/organisation/departments in agriculture and allied sectors down to Block level throughout the country since its inception in July, 2013.

The Kisan Call Centre (KCC) initiative aims to provide information to the farming community through toll-free telephone lines and

working in 14 different locations covering almost all the states from 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM on all 7 days a week nationwide. Under this project, call centre facilities have been extended to the farmers through call centres located in different states so that farmers can get the information in their own language.

In order to provide latest information/technologies to the farmers Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 641 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The KVKs aim to assess and demonstrate the production potential of agricultural technologies and farm practices on farmer's fields. State-wise and category-wise details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years and the current year have been depicted in Annexure-VI.

State-wise major activities undertaken by the KVKs including training of farmers and extension personnel has been given at Annexure-VII.

Under the Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) market related information is disseminated to the farmers and other stake holders to facilitate them in planning production and marketing of their agricultural produce. The details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years and the current year are given at Annexure-VIII.

Under the Scheme Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension information and knowledge to the farming community in local language/dialect for strengthening the agricultural extension system is disseminated through the existing infrastructure of Doordarshan and All India Radio. The details of funds spent during the last three years and the current year are given at Annexure-IX.

(e): Under the Clause 7 & 8 of Fertilizer Control Order, dealers are required to obtain authorization letter from the notified authority for carrying out their business. Similarly, Seeds (Control) Orders, 1983 enunciate requirement of a licence to carry on business of a dealer in seeds as per provisions of the order *ibid*.