

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 448
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH JULY, 2021

ESTABLISHING AGRISTACK

448. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:
SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the implementation of 'AgriStack', a project to promote technology-based interventions in the agriculture sector, has commenced, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has entered into agreements with private companies for establishing 'Agristack', if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria under which private firms were selected for collaboration on the Agristack project; and

(d) the details of the mechanisms available with the Government to protect the personal and non-personal data of farmers from being exploited/misused by the private companies in the absence of data protection laws?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The Department has commenced the work for creating Agristack in the country. In order to create Agristack, the department is in the process of finalising "India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA)" which will lay down a framework for Agristack. Accordingly, a Task Force has been constituted and in furtherance, a concept paper on IDEA has been prepared and comments were invited from subject experts, farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and general public. Once finalized, this can serve as a foundation to build innovative agri-focused solutions leveraging technologies to contribute effectively towards increasing the income of farmers and improve farm efficiency/efficiency of the Agriculture sector in the country with an overall goal of Doubling of Farmers' Incomes. A federated farmers' database is being built by the Department and once completed, this would serve as the core of the Agristack.

(b) & (c): No Sir, Government has not entered into any agreement with private companies for establishing Agristack. However, based on data which is already available in the public domain pertaining to several schemes of Gol and linking them with land records data, a federated farmers database is being prepared. Some data from this is shared on selective basis with leading Technology/Agri-tech/StartUp companies to develop Proof of Concepts (PoCs). The collaboration is on pro-bono basis for a period of one year. The PoCs will help us understand the solutions that can be built using available data and some of them, if found beneficial to the farmers will be scaled up at National level.

(d): As of now, the federated farmers' database is being built by taking the publicly available data as existing in various data silos in Government and no private data of the farmers is shared with any private organisation. This Department in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of bringing out a data policy for the agriculture sector.
