

of West Bengal has not yet decided to join the scheme despite being requested.

(c) The fund allocated and utilization status as on 11.3.2020 are as follows:

Financial Year	Fund Allocated	Fund Utilised
2018-19	₹20,000 crore	₹60,05.48 crore
2019-20 (BE)	₹ 75,000 crore	₹46,645.96 crore
2019-20 (RE)	₹ 54,370.15 crore	

**Imparting new technologies to farmers through electronic media**

2263. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to educate the farmers of the country through electronic media so that they are aware of the new technologies on farming and other related issues which will benefit them;

(b) whether Government is considering to impart training to the farmers in this direction in view of the increasing methods of farming being adopted across the world and also to compete in the farming field; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) DAC&FW is educating farmers through following use of electronic media as follows:

- Kisan Suvidha mobile app facilitates dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., Weather; Market Prices; Plant Protection; Input Dealers (Seed, Pesticide, Fertilizer) Farm Machinery; Soil Health Card; Cold Storages and Godowns, Veterinary Centres and Diagnostic Labs.
- Crop related advisories are regularly sent to the registered farmers through SMSs on mKisan Portal ([www.mkisan.gov.in](http://www.mkisan.gov.in)).

- The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has compiled more than 100 mobile apps developed by ICAR, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the areas of crops, horticulture, veterinary, dairy, poultry, fisheries, natural resources management and integrated subjects.
- Awareness/education is being created among farmers through various electronic mass media mediums like DD Kisan Channel, Doordarshan, All India Radio etc.
- Apart from the above, Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube are being used to educate farmers, across the country.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing the following schemes aimed at imparting training to farmers in the agriculture and allied sectors:

- (i) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme is under implementation in 691 districts of 28 States and 5 UTs of the country. The extension activities under ATMA, *inter-alia*, include Farmers' Training. During the year, 2018-19, 19.18 lakh farmers availed training benefits under ATMA.
- (ii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with its network of 717 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has mandate of technology assessment, demonstration and capacity development of farmers. KVKs are imparting training to farmers for getting higher agricultural production and income. During the year 2018-19, 13.51 lakh farmers were trained by KVKs in various thematic areas.
- (iii) Four Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs) located at Budni (MP), Hissar (Haryana), Ananthapur (AP) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam) are engaged in imparting training to various categories of trainees including farmers, in the field of Farm Mechanization. During the year 2018-19, these Institutes have trained 9905 candidates.
- (iv) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in identified districts of 28 States and 2 UTs *viz.* Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir of the

country to increase the production and productivity of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and nutri-cereals (millets) through area expansion and productivity enhancement. During the year 2018-19, 3,42,188 number of farmers were trained.

- (v) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH. During 2018-19, 1,91,086 number of farmers were trained.
- (vi) In addition to the above, training of farmers is an inbuilt component under Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine. Farmer Field Schools are conducted for promoting Integrated Pest Management among farmers. During the year 2018-19, 712 FFSs were organized under the scheme.

#### **Supply of quality seeds to farmers**

2264. LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:  
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:  
SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the major problems of agriculturists in the country and the measures taken by Government to resolve those problems;
- (b) the average holding of farmers in the country;
- (c) the action taken to educate small farmers about the benefits of co-operative farming;
- (d) whether quality seeds are out of reach of majority of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers, mainly because of their exorbitant prices; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken to provide quality seeds to small and marginal farmers at fair price?