

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1284  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30/07/2021

MASSIVE GAP IN D I G I T A L A C C E S S T O I D E A

1284. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) whether steps are being taken to minimize the massive gap in digital access and literacy in the country since the proposed India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA) is made mandatory, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total funds released for providing digital access to the farmers; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken for protection of farmers' data with respect to IDEA if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The digital penetration and its acceptance are increasing in the country. Ministry is reaching out to farmers of the country through various digital platforms including websites and mobile applications. With increased penetration of Internet & Smart Phones, the digital divide is getting narrowed.

(b): Funds are released to the States/UTs under the scheme viz. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) for projects involving use of modern and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Block Chain Technology, Internet of Things, Robotics etc., and for customization / shifting of web & mobile applications already developed by the States, to the platform to be developed using digital technologies. The Ministry manages various websites, mobile Apps, Databases that help our farmers in gaining access to digital information.

(c): As of now, the federated farmers' database is being built by taking the publicly available data as existing in the Department and in various data silos in Government and linking them with the digitised land records. 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.

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