

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 822
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09/02/2024

IMPLEMENTATION OF AIF

822. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY

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

- (a) the aims and objectives of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF);
- (b) the details of the size of fund and interest subvention, if any;
- (c) the extent to which farmers and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are going to be benefited through AIF in view of stiff competition from private entrepreneurs, Start-Ups, federations, etc.;
- (d) whether the Government is likely to earmark a fixed percentage of AIF to farmers and FPOs and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of applications received so far under AIF from farmers and FPOs from Puducherry along with the status thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a): Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was launched to provide medium to long term financing facilities for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.

The scheme aims at developing agri-infrastructure at farm gate level in order to reduce post-harvest losses, to enhance productivity, improve resource utilization, technology adoption, better price realization and accessibility of market to the farmers.

(b): Size of AIF financing fund is Rs 1 Lakh Crore. All loans upto ₹ 2 crore under this financing facility have interest subvention of 3% per annum. This subvention is available for a maximum period of 7 years. In case of loans beyond ₹ 2 crore, interest subvention is limited up to ₹ 2 crore.

(c): Both farmers and FPOs are eligible to avail financial support under AIF for creating eligible agri infrastructure. Each of them can avail interest subvention of 3% and credit guarantee

support under the scheme for setting up maximum 25 projects at different locations. AIF also allow convergence with other schemes so that benefits from other Centre/State government scheme can also be availed along with AIF. Prioritizing farmers and FPO, Government of India had launched various schemes and initiatives to promote farmers and FPO of the country. AIF through its unique feature of convergence with all such schemes and initiatives make infrastructure projects more viable and also creates a healthy environment for FPO and farmers to compete with private entrepreneurs, start-ups and other eligible entities.

(d): As of now, Government has not earmarked any percentage of AIF to farmers and FPO. The reason being that any infrastructure created under AIF by any eligible beneficiary whether agri-entrepreneur, Federations, FPO etc. will ultimately benefit the farmers only.

(e): Details of applications received from Puducherry are given in the table below.

(Rs in Crores/As on 30.01.2024)

| SN | Beneficiary Type | Received | | Sanctioned | | Disbursed | |
|----|--------------------|----------|------|------------|------|-----------|------|
| | | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. |
| 1 | Agri Entrepreneur | 3 | 2.55 | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | Farmer | 3 | 1.96 | 2 | 1.85 | 2 | 1.85 |
| 3 | Startup | 1 | 1.79 | - | - | - | - |
| | Grand Total | 7 | 6.30 | 2 | 1.85 | 2 | 1.85 |
