

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2888
ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

SURRENDER OF FUNDS BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

2888. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has surrendered over Rs. 1 lakh crores to the Ministry of Finance in the last five years as per its Report 'Accounts at a Glance for the year 2022-23';
- (b) the status of Research and Development (R&D) in the Ministry and details of amount returned by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) during the last five years, year-wise, and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons and justification for surrendering huge amount by the Ministry; and
- (d) the details of funds surrendered in 2023-24 till November of 2024-25?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Details of budget allocated, utilized and unutilized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare during the last five years are as follows;

(Amount: Rs in crore)

Sl No.	Year	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Amount unutilized against RE
1	2018-19	75364.51	53826.68	21537.83
2	2019-20	109261.4	101740.2	7521.19
3	2020-21	124060.1	115856	8204.04
4	2021-22	126202.7	122712.1	3490.58
5	2022-23	118256.4	109561	8695.41
	Total	553145.1	503696.1	49449.05

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the apex scientific research body to plan, promote, execute and coordinate activities on agriculture research, agriculture education and agriculture extension in the country, through a network of Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), All-India Coordinated Research projects, All India Network projects,

Agriculture Universities and other Stakeholders. ICAR is the guiding and monitoring entity of the country for National Agriculture Research System (NARS), one of the largest research systems in the world, with its constituent Institutions spread across the country. ICAR operated nine scheme for agriculture research, education and extension to be continued over the 15th Finance Commission cycle. Details of funds surrendered by Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) during the last five years are as follows:

Sr. No.	Year	Amount returned/lapsed/surrendered by DARE (Rs. In Crores)
1.	2018-19	329.53
2.	2019-20	171.71
3.	2020-21	733.05
4.	2021-22	68.66
5.	2022-23	18.31
6.	2023-24	59.41
	Total	1380.67

(c): There are a number of reasons for the surrender of budgetary funds allocated. Slow pace of expenditure, non-submission/delay in submission of utilization certificates are the most common reasons. However, the last five years, Ministry of Finance has adopted a new fund flow mechanism to ensure reduction in delay in disbursement and utilization of funds starting with introduction of Public Finance Management System (PFMS) upto introduction of SNA-SPARSH model of funds flow. These mechanisms are aimed at reducing the timeline delays as well as ensuring creation of digital data on Public Finance Management System (PFMS) such that reliable data for future analysis and the examination is readily available to Government and public at large. This model being promoted by Department of Expenditure also attempts to capture the provisioning of funds for various focused areas of development like components for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan, Tribal Sub Plan, North Eastern Region components, etc.

(d): Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (including DARE) has surrendered an amount of ₹6564.73 crores during financial year 2023-24 while no funds have been surrendered till November of the current financial year 2024-25.
