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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 485
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29/11/2024

AGRISTACK PROJECT AND DATA PRIVACY

485.   SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has started implementing the Agristack project to digitalize the agriculture ecosystem, if so, the status of the project;
(b)   whether Government has conducted consultations with the relevant stakeholders before or after the implementation of the Agristack project, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c)   whether Government has taken cognizance of concerns raised by various experts over the potential threat of the erosion of privacy and data exploitation due to the Agristack project; and
(d)   if so, the concerns raised and measures taken by Government to solve it and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a):   Agristack project is a major component of Digital Agriculture Mission approved by the Cabinet on 2nd September, 2024. It consists of three foundational registries or databases in the agriculture sector, i.e., the Farmers' Registry, Geo-referenced village maps and the Crop Sown Registry, all created and maintained by the State Governments/ Union Territories. As on 24.11.2024, a total of 12,37,736 Farmer IDs have been created and Digital Crop Survey (DCS) has been undertaken in 436 Districts in Kharif 2024.

(b):   Wider consultations were made with State Governments, Banks, concerned Central Ministries and other stakeholders through various National and Regional level conferences, for implementation of AgriStack project.

(c) & (d):   Agristack is a federated structure and the ownership of data is with the respective States only. The federated system has been built considering the privacy aspects as per Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.

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