

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3253
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRI-CLINICS/AGRI-BUSINESS CENTRES
AMBATI BRAHMANIAH;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have established or propose to establish Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres;
- (b) if so, the objectives and activities thereof;
- (c) the total amount sanctioned/proposed to be sanctioned and spent under the scheme; and
- (d) the response of farmers and agri graduates for whom the scheme has been launched?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): A new Central Sector Scheme, Establishment of a Network of Agri Clinics & Agri BusinessCentres` has been launched in the year 2001-2002. The Scheme aims at using unemployed graduates to provide extension services to the farmers on payment basis by setting up their private ventures.

(b): Objectives

- ? To provide Multi-source extension services to the farmers on payment;
- ? To promote fast dissemination of agriculture technology;
- ? To supply inputs and support services on competitive terms to the farmers;
- ? To boost production and the quality of agriculture produce; and
- ? To create opportunities for self-employment of agriculture graduates;
- ? Agriculture graduates individually or in-groups can set-up their Agri-clinics and Agri-business centres through bank loans.

Activities

About twenty economically viable activities have been identified. These include, soil, water and input testing, plant protection services, micro propagation, custom hiring, maintenance and repair of agricultural implements, seed processing units, vermiculture, biofertilizer, veterinary dispensaries, feed processing, value additional centres, setting up of cold chains etc.

(c): A sum of Rs.1 crore was sanctioned during the financial year 2001-2002 for the training component of the scheme and the same has been spent. A sum of Rs.5 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2002-2003.

(d): Surveys by reputed institutions like ICAR, State Agriculture Universities and National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad indicate the willingness of the Agriculture graduates to take such venture and of the farmers to pay for the services. 12087 persons have already given their willingness to join the training for setting up their ventures.