

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2679
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
AGRICULTURE CLINIC/TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTRE
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of Agri-clinic/Agri-technology information centers in operation in the country at present, State-wise ;
- (b) The nodal agency providing financial support and monitoring these clinics/centres; and
- (e) The financial assistance provided by this agency to these centres during the last three years alongwith rate of interest charged thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a) : The number of Agri clinics in operation in the country as on 06.08.2004 is 1024. The number of Agriculture Technology Information Centre in operation in the country is 44. The State-wise information is furnished in Annexure-I & II, respectively.
- (b) : The nodal agency providing financial support to the agri-clinic centres is National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through Nationalized Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks. The Scheme Agri-clinic centres is monitored by Small Farmers` Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and NABARD. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the nodal and monitoring agency for Agricultural Technology Information Centres.
- (c) : The financial assistance provided by NABARD to Agriclincs during the last three years is furnished at Annexure-III. The rate of interest charged on the loan assistance varies from 10 to 15 per cent per annum. The financial assistance provided to Agriculture Technology Information Centres is furnished at Annexure-II. The financial assistance has been provided to these Centres once through grants-in aids .