

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:112  
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007  
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
Mohale Shri Punnulal

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has launched a mega project for setting up of Panchayat level Agriculture Development Centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which such Agriculture Development Centres are likely to be made operational?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 112 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH AUGUST, 2007.

(a) to (c): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture has not launched any mega project for setting up Panchayat level Agriculture Development Centre.

2. However, as recommended by the National Commission on Farmers, DAC is promoting setting up of Farm Schools at Gram Panchayat/Block level. Main features of Farm Schools are:

- a) Farm Schools would normally be set up in the field of outstanding farmers and awardees of nationally recognized awards for farmers.
- b) `Teachers` in the Farm Schools could be progressive farmers, extension functionaries or expert belonging to Government or Non-Government Sector.
- c) The trainees of Farm Schools would preferably be leaders of farmers` groups producing the same commodity.
- d) Demonstration and training would be the main activities at Farm Schools.
- e) Trainees of Farm Schools would also be supported for undertaking Field Demonstrations in their own fields.
- f) Knowledge and skills of `teachers` would be upgraded on a continuous basis through training at district/state/national level institutions and exposure visits, etc.

3. Farm Schools have been added in July, 2007 as an eligible activity under the scheme `Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms` based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model. This list of eligible activities provides unit cost ceiling as well as activity ceiling. States have flexibility in choosing extension activities and outlays for each one of them subject to overall budgetary ceiling and activity ceiling.