

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:136
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lack of appropriate technology and stagnation in research and development works are the main reasons for the decline in farm productivity;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the expenditure incurred and progress made for technology upgradation and R&D works by Agricultural Universities and Indian Council for Agricultural Research Institutes, for the last three years, year-wise; and
- (d) the corrective action taken to enhance farm productivity?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. There is no stagnation in research and appropriate technologies are developed on continuous basis for increasing farm productivity keeping in view emerging challenges. The research priorities and activities are reviewed from time to time for need-based modification to address prevailing problems. Weaknesses noticed in staffing, higher education support and IPR protection are being addressed through timely interventions.

(c) The details of the Plan Allocation and Expenditure of the ICAR during the last three years are as under:-

Rs. in Crores (Rounded off)
Year Actual Expenditure

2006-07	1368
2007-08	1317
2008-09	1653

Moreover for strengthening and development of higher agricultural education including technology upgradation, R&D works, modernization of universities agricultural farms, infrastructural development, support given to state agricultural universities in the last three years is as follows:-

Expenditure
Rs. crores (rounded off)
2007-08 2008-09 2009-2010#

358 377 365 # (expected)

(d) During the period of XI Plan the DARE/ICAR has undertaken some new initiatives keeping in view the emerging challenges in the field of agricultural research and national food security aspect; viz., established National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management at Malegaon, Maharashtra, initiated and strengthened schemes of National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research and Intellectual Property Management and commercialization of agricultural technologies. In addition, the research work is in progress for gene discovery, bio-prospecting and allele mining, bioinformatics, developing stress resistant varieties (e.g. for submergence, tolerance and drought resistance in rice), adaptation and mitigation for climate change, molecular breeding and transgenic development, augmentation and utilization of microbial resources.

Government of India has also launched a new scheme as `National Food Security Mission` to enhance production of rice, wheat and pulses by an additional 20 million tones in the next five years.