

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2992
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010
HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE
Balram Shri P.;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is giving Priority to higher education in agriculture and allied subjects including animal husbandry;
- (b) if so, the modalities worked out so far and implemented in the 11th Five Year Plan in the country including Andhra Pradesh, State-wise; and
- (c) the views of the State Governments in this regard?

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) Yes, Madam.

(b) Higher agricultural education is a state subject. On its part the Central Government through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been providing adequate professional and partial financial support for enhancing the quality of higher agricultural education in the country. The support is for policy, quality assurance through accreditation, common academic regulations, updated and contemporary course curricula and delivery systems, improvement of faculty competence, promoting excellence through scholarships/fellowships, niche areas of excellence, experiential learning, National Professors, National Fellows, Emeritus Scientists, modernization of farms, IT support and upgradation of infrastructure and facilities, including libraries. The grant is provided to the State Agricultural Universities. In the XIth Five Year Plan total assistance to State Agricultural Universities by Government of India through ICAR under the scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India" is planned at Rs.2276.00 crores, out of which Rs.930.00 crores have been released.

(c) As they are important stakeholders, there are continuous interactions in this regard, including Regional Committee meetings and their views are duly considered.