

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4384

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010

RE-ORIENTATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Pakirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proposes to re-orient its research and development in agriculture and bridge critical gaps;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether there is also a need to revise the course curriculum of agricultural education to make it more relevant; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government 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) to (c): ICAR makes regular and continuous efforts to reorient and evolve its R&D activities in light of changed circumstances and demands. During the XI Plan, several new initiatives have been pursued to meet the emerging challenges in agriculture. In this endeavour, establishment of three new institutes has been initiated, viz., National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management (already established at Baramati, Maharashtra), National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, and Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (already approved in principle by Planning Commission and in the process of seeking approval). New tools of science, such as marker assisted selection, gene prospecting and allele mining, gene knock down technology, bioremediation, nanotechnology, etc. have been incorporated in research, with due capacity building of scientists through national and international training programmes.

(d) & (e): Revision of PG course curricula and syllabi was undertaken in 2009 and extant 95 PG courses were revised and reorganized into 83 courses. The agricultural universities have agreed to adopt the revised course curricula and syllabi. In accordance with Deans Committee Report, Agriculture Universities have adopted the revised syllabi for UG courses in Agriculture and Allied Sciences.