

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4447  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009  
AGRICULTURE CLINICS  
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up agriculture clinics in the country including Punjab and Haryana to test the soil, devise techniques for water management and to help the farmers to cultivate agriculture and horticulture produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the extent to which these clinics would help in motivating the farmers to get higher produce?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): This Ministry has a Central Sector Scheme "Establishment of Agri-clinics and Agri- business Centres (ACABCs)" to support unemployed agricultural graduates to set up agriculture clinics in the country including in Punjab and Haryana. The scheme has the following objectives :

- (i) To provide extension and other services to farmers on payment basis.
- (ii) To support agriculture development and entrepreneurship, and
- (iii) To promote self-employment.

Under the scheme, till 29th July 2009, a total of 6562 unemployed agriculture graduates have established agriculture clinics out of which 61 are in Punjab and 63 are in Haryana. These agriculture clinics are set up under different activities which include Soil Testing Laboratories also. All over the country, 56 Soil Testing Laboratories have been established under agriculture clinics including two in Haryana and one in Punjab. The state-wise details are annexed.

(c): The extension services provided by agri-preneurs have empowered the farmers to adopt advanced technology, know-how and practices resulted in increased crop production and productivity.

The Mid Term Evaluation report of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme has indicated that "According to the Extension officials of Maharashtra, the productivity of the crops have increased by 20% in the catchment area of the Agri-clinics and farmers have gained in terms of income and better quality of the produce. Similarly in Andhra Pradesh, productivity has increased by 30% and in Rajasthan by 10%. The extension services provided by agri-preneurs have empowered the farmers to adopt advanced technologies, know how and practices. One of the reasons mentioned for increase in productivity is constant monitoring and advice to the farmers during the crop raising period.