

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2101
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
AGRI-CLINIC AND AGRI- BUSINESS CENTRE
Thakor Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a scheme 'Establishment of Agriclinc and Agri-business Centres' to create employment opportunities for selfemployed agriculture graduates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme in the country including Gujarat during each of the last three years, Statewise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation launched a Central Sector Scheme 'Establishment of the Agri-clinics and Agri- business Centres (ACABCs)' in April, 2002. The Scheme aims to:-

(i) Provide gainful seif-employment opportunities to unemployed agricultural graduates, agricultural diploma holders, intermediate in agriculture and biological science graduates with PG in agri-related courses;

(ii) Support agricultural development; and

(iii) Supplement efforts of pubic extension by necessarily providing extension services to the farmers as per local needs of farmers. Salient features of the scheme:

(i) The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) is the Implementing Agency for training component of the Scheme. Two months' free residential training is imparted to the selected eligible candidates on Agri- Entrepreneurshtp Development followed by one-year handholding support after completion of training, .through Nodal Training Institutes.

(ii) The Scheme has a provision of credit support (start up loan) upto 20 lakhs for individual projects and t 100 lakhs for a group project.

(iii) There is a provision of credit linked back-ended composite subsidy on the bank loan availed by trained candidates under the Scheme. The subsidy is 44% in respect of women, SC/ST & all categories of candidates from North-Eastern and Hill States; and 36% in respect of all other categories

(iv) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the Implementing Agency for disbursement of subsidy and monitoring the credit support to agri-ciinics and agribusiness centres through the banks.

(c): Since inception of the scheme, a total of 27894 candidates have been trained and 9949 of them have established agri-ventures up to February, 2012.

The State-wise details of beneficiaries under the Scheme in the country including Gujarat (candidates trained and ventures established) is given at Annexure-I.