

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2230
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMMES
Gorakhnath Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agriculture extension programmes are playing an important role in propagating agriculture related information among the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether assistance is being provided to various States under the Agriculture Extension Reform Programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the number of farmers benefited under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Various agricultural extension programmes being implemented in the country are disseminating agriculture related information among farmers. These include:

- i. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms aims at strengthening farmer centric extension system in various States and Union Territories by putting in place new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Management Agency(ATMA). The activities taken up under the Scheme include capacity building of extension functionaries and farmers, front line demonstration, exposure visits, kisan melas, farmers group mobilization, farm schools and farmer - scientist interaction.
- ii. Under the Mass Media Support to Agriculture Scheme, agriculture related programmes are broadcast through 180 Narrow casting Centres, 18 Regional Centres and 1 National Centre of Doordarshan Kendras and 96 FM station radio for 30 minutes, five/six days a week. Besides this, a Focussed Publicity Campaign on issues relevant to the farming community has also been going on.
- iii. Kisan Call Centres scheme provides agriculture related information to the farming community through toll free telephone lines. Replies to the queries of the farming community are given in local languages. Calls are attended from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm on all 7 days of the week.
- iv. The Scheme on `Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres by Agriculture Graduates` provides extension services to farmers through the selected candidates who possess academic background in agriculture by giving them training and handholding support to set up economically viable ventures.
- v. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) is promoting/organizing agriculture fairs at different levels to disseminate information to farming communities on development of Agriculture.
- vi. Farmers are trained through Seed village programme on seed production and seed technologies.
- vii. ICAR, through their network of 611 KVKs in the country empowers farmers, rural youths and extension personnel through training.

(c): Yes, Madam. The assistance is being provided to 604 rural districts of 28 States and 3 UTs across the country.

(d): State-wise and year-wise details of release of funds during last three years and the current is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(e): The number of farmers benefited under Centrally Sponsored scheme `Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms` during last three years and the current year is enclosed at Annexure-II.