

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:268

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the financial assistance made available to the various institutes/agencies undertaking agricultural research since 2009-10, year-wise;
- (b) the major research and development work undertaken by them;
- (c) whether the Government has recently reviewed the functioning of research institutes involved in agricultural research;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the deficiencies identified in their functioning; and
- (f) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the effective functioning of these research institutes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 268 TO BE ANSWERED ON
24/04/2012 REGARDING "RESEARCH INSTITUTES"

(a) The Subject Matter Division wise summary of Plan financial assistance is given at Annexure 1, while the details of plan and non-plan financial assistance given to various institutes for undertaking agricultural research since 2009-10 is given in Annexure 2&3. While the Agricultural Education Division provides development and infrastructure grants to the State Agricultural Universities, the Agricultural Extension Division provides funding to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

(b) The ICAR research institutes have been involved in undertaking scientific research on the following aspects:

1. Developing agro-ecology-specific high yielding, nutritionally improved crop varieties/hybrids, with resistance/tolerance to pests, extreme weather conditions, salinity, sodicity, alkalinity and acidity in soils, using modern scientific tools; scientific crop husbandry through good agricultural practice and making available high quality, genetically true to type breeder seed.
2. Developing agro-ecology-specific, high yielding breeds, using modern scientific tools, of livestock, poultry, pigs, marine and freshwater fish and other edible aquatic animals, that have relevance to farmers of the country; scientific animal husbandry and fisheries practices including management of their health; making available genetically true to type quality seed, semen, breeds, as the case may be.
3. Developing prototypes and commercially viable manufacturing designs and processes of tools and machines that reduce farm drudgery and enhance efficiency of farming operations and address carbon credit development as well as agro-ecology-specific, energy efficiency; development of post-harvest primary and secondary processing techniques and machinery for agricultural commodities for commercial post-harvest processing.
4. Developing tools and techniques of dissemination of research-originated knowledge in various agro-ecosystems with enhanced use of modern ICTs.
5. Developing suitable innovative research approach in consortium mode in order to take up challenges in profitability, value chain improvement as well as for cutting edge research in basic and strategic research areas to address critical gaps in knowledge.

(c) The research programmes of the Institutes of ICAR are subject to Quinquennial Review through eminent experts in respective fields of science. Each ICAR research institute also has a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) that also reviews progress of research and provides valuable advice on the direction and types of scientific aspects and methods/processes of research.

(d) The reports of Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) in respect of the Institutes are presented to the Governing Body (GB) of ICAR and the recommendations of both the QRT and GB are acted upon. The advice from RACs is subjected to further discussion in the Institute Research Councils (IRCs) of ICAR research institutes and research programmes are redesigned or recast, as required. The research Prioritisation Management and Evaluation (PME) units of the institutes oversee these research planning and implementation processes.

(e) The deficiencies noticed in respect of the functioning of various institutes mostly relate to capacity building for addressing new and

emerging issues of diseases, climate change, input use efficiency and post harvest losses; greater multidisciplinary research and linkages; technology transfer; enhancing publications; and state of the art infrastructure.

(f) The remedial steps are taken up by ICAR institutes under the guidance of the subject matter divisions of the ICAR headquarters. Besides, mid-course corrections are also taken up for ensuring effective functioning of the research institutes to overcome deficiencies. The ICAR regularly undertakes O&M reforms for efficient utilisation of financial and human resources, strengthening decision support system for informed decision making, thus creating an enabling environment in the system. Certain important reforms introduced in the recent years include revisiting ARS guidelines; half yearly progress review of scientists; ICAR awards; revised scorecards for assessment of scientists; modified Foundation Course for ARS Scientists (FOCARS) programme; Leadership programme; Farmer Professors. In order to further improve the system's efficiency, institution-specific performance indicators, revised research proforma, research consortia platforms, inter-departmental research collaboration, mission projects, extramural funding, programmes of Farmer FIRST and Student READY are contemplated.