

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6234
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
AGRICULTURE INFORMATION CENTRES
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up Agriculture Information Centres in the country particularly in the backward and tribal areas of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has given any assistance to the State Governments for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & b): No, Madam. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has setup 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) in the country, located in ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities. Out of these 5 ATICs are located in Maharashtra (Ratnagiri, Ahmednagar, Nagpur, Parbhani and Akola). The ICAR has also created a network of 630 Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the country to facilitate farmers' access to agricultural technology generated by National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) Government of India is also implementing Kisan Call Centre programme under which Agriculture related information is provided to the farmers in 22 regional languages through a countrywide common toll free number 1800-180-1551 covering all the States and Union- territory of India. The KCCs established at 13 locations in the country operate from 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM on all days a week and all 365 days in a year. The Kisan Call Centre located in Pune district of Maharashtra caters to all the farmers of the state of Maharashtra and Goa.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Question does not arise.