

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4024
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMMES
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agriculture extension programmes are under implementation to propagate agricultural related information amongst the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the districts covered thereunder;
- (c) the details of the financial assistance provided and utilised by the States under the Agriculture Extension Reform Programme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the number of farmers including women farmers and farmers welfare groups benefitted under the scheme during the above period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Agriculture related latest information and appropriate technologies are being disseminated under various agricultural extension programmes being implemented in the country. 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 demonstrations, exposure visits, kisan melas, farmers group mobilization, farm schools and farmer-scientist interaction. Presently, 614 districts of 28 States and 3 UTs are covered under the Scheme.

ii) Agriculture related programmes are being broadcast in the entire country through 180 Narrow Casting Centres; 18 Regional Centres & 1 National Channel of Doordarshan and 96 FM radio stations. Besides this, a Focussed Publicity Campaign on issues relevant to the farming community has also been going on.

iii) Kisan Call Centres (covering all States & Union Territories) provide 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) Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres run by trained youth having educational background in agriculture & allied subjects provide extension services to farmers. The selected candidates are given training and handholding support to set up economically viable ventures. This Scheme is operational in all the States.

v) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) is promoting & participating agriculture fairs at different levels in the country.

vi) Farmers throughout the country are trained through Seed Village Programme on seed production and seed technologies.

vii) Through their network of 630 KVKs in the country, ICAR empowers farmers, rural youth and extension personnel through training.

(c): State-wise details of funds released under Agriculture Extension Reform Programme and funds utilized by the States during last three years and the current year is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(d): the number of farmers including women farmers and farmers welfare groups who have benefitted under the Scheme during last three years and current year is enclosed at Annexure-II