

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4731

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agriculture extension services is ineffective in transferring technology and techniques of farming to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to recruit farm graduates to make the extension services effective across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Transfer of technology & techniques to farmers is being done through agricultural extension services, being strengthened throughout the country. Induction of committed manpower for enhanced physical outreach, regular capacity building, interactive methods of information dissemination, Public Private Partnership, involvement of agripreneurs engaged in agri-business sector and pervasive and innovative use of ICT in extension are some of the areas being focused upon.

(c) to (e): A modified Centrally sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" operational in 614 districts of the country has a provision of 90% financial support to the State Governments for engaging graduates in Agriculture (& allied subjects) as Block Technology Managers and Subject Matter Specialists at Block Level. Against a sanctioned strength of these 15,634 Block Level functionaries, 10,423 personnel have been engaged so far.

Kisan Call Centres for the entire country are functioning from 14 locations in the country. Kisan Call Centre Agents, who are graduates in Agriculture, have been engaged by the Service Provider selected by the Government.