

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4774
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proposes to re-orient its research and development works in agriculture and to bridge critical gaps during the 12th Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken so far by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether there is a need to revise the course curriculum of agricultural education to make it more relevant and farmers' friendly;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed by the Government for such revision; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) makes regular and continued efforts to reorient and evolve its R&D activities in the context of emerging challenges and needs of agriculture. New tools of science such as marker assisted selection, gene prospecting and allele mining, gene knock down technology, bioremediation, nanotechnology, alongwith validation of research results in farmers' fields and scaling up models through agri-incubators and programmes have been incorporated in the R&D process.

(d) to (f): The course curriculum of different courses are being revised at regular intervals to make the programmes updated and relevant to farmers' needs. The steps taken include revision of Under Graduate courses through IV Deans' Committee in 2007; Post-Graduate course in 2009; establishment of Experiential Learning Units and Niche Areas of Excellence in different Universities to provide for hands-on training, skilled entrepreneurship development among students in different areas of agriculture.