

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1951

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

FARM TECHNOLOGY

Hegde Shri. K. Jayaprakash ;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agriculture sector is lagging behind in the development and utilisation of modern technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating for setting up of new farming and agricultural schools in the country to impart training to farmers about new farming technologies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the assistance provided to the farmers including small and marginal farmers to adopt modern technology?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. However, the Government is already imparting training to farmers through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Farm Schools (FS) under various ongoing schemes. While the overall aim of the FFSs and FSs is to provide on – field trainings to the farmers, each scheme has a specific objective for organizing such schools. The FFS under National Food Security Mission aims at providing first hand information to the farmers to enable them to adopt the improved production of Rice, Wheat & Pulses. The Farm Schools under the scheme 'Support to States for Extension Reforms' (ATMA Scheme) is run by a farmer where experts also come for giving training at 6 critical stages of crop cycle. Training on IPM technologies is imparted in Farm Schools run under the Scheme 'Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India'. FFS under Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton & Jute provide season long training to farmers for complete cropping cycle.

(e): Government is assisting all farmers to adopt modern technologies by way of various initiatives viz. capacity building of Extension Functionaries and Farmers; Frontline Demonstrations; Exposure Visits; Kisan Melas; Farmers' Group Mobilization; Farm School, Farmer Field School and Farmers Scientist Interactions across the country. The Mass Media and Kisan Call Centre Schemes have also been revamped and strengthened recently to reach out to all farmers (including small and marginal farmers) to disseminate relevant information and to spread adoption of modern technologies. The agri-entrepreneurs trained under the Central Sector Scheme 'Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) Scheme are also actively involved in providing advisory and extension services to the farmers on various modern technologies.

A nation-wide SMS Portal for Farmers has enabled all Departments, Offices and Organizations of Government of India and State Governments (down to the block level) to send information, provide services and give advisories to farmers in their local languages, in respect to their location and for preference of crops/agricultural practices.