

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4065
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the stagnation in production and inadequate allocation for Research and Development in the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made for agricultural research during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of the steps taken to enhance allocation under Research and Development and improve agriculture production in the country;
- (d) whether Government proposes to form a consortium consisting of scientists/stakeholders from the field of agriculture and industries, to promote collaborative research; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) ICAR has made significant contributions towards enhancing production and productivity in all segments of agriculture viz. field crops, horticultural crops, livestock, fisheries, Natural Resource Management etc. This is evidenced by the fact that record production of 105 million tones of milk (2007-08), 233 million tones of foodgrains and 7.6 million tones of fish was achieved during the year 2008-09. Productivity spurts have also been recently realized in crops mainly maize, sugarcane, cotton, castor, etc. The newly developed varieties and hybrids have clearly indicated the superiority/increase in yield ranging from 12 to 45% in the frontline demonstration of various crops conducted in different regions of the country. Hence, there has been no stagnation in production.

The budgetary allocation for DARE/ICAR has increased from Rs.5368 crore in the X Plan to Rs. 12023 crore in the XI Plan.

(b) The budgetary allocation made for agriculture research during last three years and current year are as follows:

Year Allocation (RE) - Rs. in Crore

2006-07 1430

2007-08 1434

2008-09 1760

2009-10 1760 (BE)

(c) The XI Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education constituted by the Planning Commission had recommended Rs.31,672 crores and another Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Director-General, ICAR had recommended Rs.36000 crore. However, the Planning Commission communicated Rs.12023 crore for the XI Plan. Even during the current financial year 2009-10, the Department had requested the Planning Commission for Rs.4000 crores through its Annual Plan 2009-10 and Midterm appraisal of XI Plan. However, the outlay has not been enhanced beyond Rs.1760 crore for 2009-10, which is same as that provided during 2008-09. Now the Department has proposed Rs.2250 crore at RE 2009-10 stage to Ministry of Finance, which is the minimum requirement to carry out the envisaged activities.

(d) & (e): A consortium consisting of scientists, academia and farmers' representatives are associated with ICAR's General Body and Governing body and in addition industry representatives are associated with Institutes' Research Advisory Committees. Thus,

there exists Institutional mechanism for getting inputs on research issues on continuous basis and also for developing collaborative research. The ICAR has already embarked upon functional Public-Private Partnership for extending the benefit of technology to the target beneficiaries, i.e. farmers on a large scale.