

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:550
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN ICAR
Anwar Shri Tariq

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is shortage of permanent manpower in various research institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in various States including Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, institution-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that shortage of permanent manpower in these institutes has deprived the farmers to achieve maximum output in the field of agriculture and green revolution; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 550 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2015 REGARDING "SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN ICAR"

(a) & (b): Presently 20.72% vacancies exist in the institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) located in various states including Bihar. The details are in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. ICAR has formulated long-term strategies to increase production, productivity and quality of food crops through development of high yielding stress tolerant varieties suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country. A total of 371 high yielding varieties/ hybrids of different food crops developed by the National Agricultural Research System have been released by Central & State Varieties Release Committees during the last five years (Annexure-II). Breakthrough varieties such as Pusa Basmati 1121 in rice, HD 2967 in wheat, JG 14 in chickpea, IPM 02-3 in mungbean, JS 95-60 in soyabean, Co 86032 in sugarcane, Suraj in cotton and castor hybrid GCH-7 have enhanced agricultural productivity in the country. About 2.86 lakh quintals of quality breeder seeds of improved varieties/hybrids of food crops was made available to the seed producing agencies during the last five years (2009-10 to 2013-14) to fulfil the demand of national seed chain to ensure higher productivity in the states through cultivation of improved varieties/hybrids and ensure higher production (Annexure-III). The sustained production of breeder seeds of highest purity and continued development of high yielding varieties is one of the major long term strategies of ICAR for spread of improved cultivars. Technological backstopping through 642 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in different districts of the States, have also ensured dissemination and adoption of improved technologies by the farmers.

Long-term measures have been initiated through sequencing of genomes of important plants and microbes, targeted integration of economically important genes for crop yield improvement, molecular breeding, bioinformatics, cloning of farm animals, genetic engineering, inter-disciplinary research on hybrids, agro-biodiversity, genomics and bio-fortification for qualitative and quantitative improvement in food crops. The ICAR and other research organizations have undertaken agricultural research projects related to biotechnology and development of genetically modified food crops as a continued long-term strategy.

ICAR is also providing requisite technology support to the farmers for optimizing crop productivity of dryland/rainfed farming in arid and semi-arid regions through efficient crop planning including agroforestry, development of short duration drought resistant varieties, intercropping, rain-water harvesting and storage for supplementary irrigation, Integrated watershed management, micro-irrigation, land management, integrated nutrient management and short/medium range weather forecasting. The research under the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture adequately covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management while addressing the farmers' problems (Annexure-IV). To this effect, the Council also has prepared 580 Contingency Plans for different districts of the country (Annexure-V).