

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5663
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a need to conduct intensive research in the agricultural sector has arisen as a consequence of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) The General agreement on trade and tariff, now WTO agreement requires liberalization of agricultural trade – reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff restrictions on imports and exports. It also involves SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) issues. The implications of agreement for agriculture are to improve competitiveness of domestic production and to comply with safety and quality standards. Both of these require crucial role for agricultural research. We require agricultural research that helps in efficient growth, which means raising productivity in such a manner that it is accompanied by reduction in average cost of production. Agricultural research can greatly help in meeting this by shifting technology frontier up and by developing cost effective devices and practices such as improving efficiency of water, fertilizer, labour and other inputs. Agricultural research is also crucial for developing packages and methods for safe use of agri- cultural chemicals and meeting required quality norm as per SPS requirement.

(b) & (c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) took cognizance of implications of trade liberalization soon after WTO came into effect. Accordingly, ICAR has been following the research strategy to prepare domestic production to compete with import in domestic market and to compete in overseas market for export in the wake of WTO challenges. It is mainly because of this that India's agriculture export have risen much faster than its imports of agriculture commodities, details are given in Annexure-I.