

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4722
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
SCHEME IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Phoole Sushree Sadhvi Savitri Bai

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry and the Ministry of Earth Sciences have formulated an ambitious scheme for strengthening and encouraging agriculture sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent of growth rate likely to be achieved in the agriculture sector as a result of the above initiative of the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology supports Research & Development projects in the areas of Agriculture Biotechnology and allied sectors. These are being supported mainly under the schemes of Agriculture Biotechnology, Crop Molecular Breeding and Plant Biotechnology. Overall, the objective of these schemes are to pursue basic research, genome sequencing and functional genomics studies for identification of useful genes, QTLs & validation of their function; developing transgenic crops, and crop improvement through marker aided selection for various abiotic & biotic stresses and quality traits. Some of the important ongoing R&D projects are wheat genome sequencing, rice functional genomics, crop biofortification for micronutrient enrichment. The department also supports Centre of Excellence & Innovation in Biotechnology (CEIB). The overall aim of the CEIB scheme is to establish centres of excellence, specialized centres, support multi-institutional network projects. The specific goal is to enhance the innovative ability of the institutions and investigators with well-developed research programme in specific areas of agriculture biotechnology.

The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) supports weather-based agro advisory service under the umbrella of "Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)" at district level. No other scheme has been taken up by MoES for strengthening and encouraging agriculture sector in the country.

(c) It is likely that these research and development (R&D) schemes will form the basis of future competitiveness, innovation, and growth in the agriculture sector. No specific study so far has been conducted to quantify the likely impact of these schemes in growth rate of agriculture sector.