

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1194
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Krishi Dak Service
Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is set to launch a new scheme Krishi Dak Service aimed at distribution of improved seed varieties to farmers at their doorstep through post offices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has already initiated a pilot project in 20 rural districts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the service is likely to be implemented in the entire country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): An innovative extension model involving linkage with branch post offices has been tested and validated by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) for technology dissemination and agro-advisory services. The model emphasized ensuring availability of quality seeds of various improved crop varieties to the farmers of the operational area through a vast network of the rural branch post offices and the post masters. Village level post masters and farmers were trained in improved farm practices with the help of local Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). These farmers laid out demonstrations of improved varieties on their farms, which became the place of learning for other farmers. The coverage of improved varieties substantially increased through 'farmer-to-farmer' seed sharing.

(c) & (d): A pilot project of the above model was undertaken in 2009 in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh (seven post offices) for dissemination of IARI improved varieties of wheat, mustard, paddy, bajra and vegetables. The model was further validated in another four districts (one each of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir). Based on encouraging results and positive feedback of the stakeholders, the model has been up-scaled to 56 districts in 14 states of the country.
