

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:384

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

Kumar Dr. Arun;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State/UT-wise and the major activities undertaken by them during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether instances of irregularities/shortcomings in the functioning of KVKs including activities undertaken by them have been reported during the above period, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to modernise the existing KVKs, if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for the purpose during the 12th Five Year Plan;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revitalise the existing KVKs in the country; and
- (e) whether any exchange programme exists for deputing farmers to foreign countries for learning the newer farm practices and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 384 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/08/2014 REGARDING "KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS"

(a) There are 639 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. The number of KVKs in each State/ UT is given in Annexure I. The details of major activities undertaken by KVKs during each of the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure II.

(b) As far as irregularities and shortcomings in the functioning of KVKs during the last three years are concerned, it was found that functioning of KVK, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh has been affected due to dispute amongst the management of the Host Organization which is sub – judice. The KVK, Nanded, Maharashtra had some administrative issues concerning use and maintenance of KVK infrastructure, holding of scientific advisory committee meetings regularly and made procedural lapses in maintenance of records for which corrective measures were suggested and the same have now been followed. Complaints have been received alleging irregularities related to ownership of land, recruitment of staff and functioning of KVK, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. As per report of a fact finding committee, the issues raised in the complaints along with the issue of appointment of relatives were examined and the host organization of the KVK has been asked to mortgage the land on which KVK has been sanctioned, besides furnishing of Indemnity Bond. As regards to KVK at Jamui district of Bihar, there is a dispute regarding ownership of the land between the two related organizations and a committee has been constituted for investigating the issue. However, the functioning of the KVK has not been affected. Further, host institutions have been advised to fill the vacant positions of staff in KVKs.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. A number of provisions have been made for creation of some additional facilities in selected KVKs including rain water harvesting; soil and water testing facilities; minimal processing facilities; carp hatcheries; integrated farming system units; and e-linkage facilities during 12th Five Year Plan. The new initiatives taken to revitalize KVKs include provision of technology information units; mini seed processing facilities; 25 KVA silent genset; micro-nutrient analysis facilities; provision of solar power panels, v KVK and KVK Net, e-farmers; and mandating some of the KVKs to work as specialized KVKs. The details of earmarked funds and the number of KVKs selected for strengthening with such facilities are given in Annexure III. Besides, provisions have also been made for strengthening KVKs during 12th Five Year Plan in terms of enhanced manpower, infrastructure facilities and financial support for working contingency to carry-out the mandated role of frontline extension system in the country.

(e) There is no regular exchange programme for deputing farmers to foreign countries. However, under ASEAN-India Agricultural Cooperation Program, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had arranged an exposure visit of 18 farmers to Malaysia from 14-23 April, 2013. The visiting farmers had got the opportunity to see best farming practices of Malaysian Agriculture like rubber production, commercial group farming, aquaculture, mushroom production, coconut production, integrated farming and entrepreneurship development.