

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1453

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015

Seed Revolution

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has formulated any scheme for ushering in a seed revolution by harnessing the network of post offices and Agriculture Science Centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Scheme is likely to be formulated in various States of the country including Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(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 carry out demonstrations of improved varieties on their farms, which provide a learning experience for other farmers.

(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 (Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat) of the country in 2015.
