

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1443**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11/12/2015

**DEARTH OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS**

1443. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

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

- (a) whether is a fact that the agriculture field/profession in the country is facing a dearth of agricultural scientists;
- (b) whether more than 1000 posts of agricultural scientists against sanctioned posts are lying vacant in the country as well as many posts are lying vacant in the institutions of ICAR also;
- (c) whether appointments are not being made even after constitution of ASRB;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by Government on the aforesaid problem?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
**(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No sir, in this connection it is mentioned that the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is a vast network with ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) institutes, SAUs (State Agricultural Universities)/CAUs/KVKs spread across the country which meets the requirement of human resources engagement in the fields of research/extension/education in

agriculture. The responsibility for filling up the vacant positions pertaining to different SAUs vests with them and they work under the State Govts. So far as ICAR is concerned, the ASRB (Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board), an independent recruitment agency, is responsible for filling up of scientific positions both through the process of direct recruitment under ARS examination and lateral entry for senior scientific positions.

Recruitment of ICAR Scientists is a continuous process. All possible steps are being taken to fill vacant positions of Agricultural Scientists on priority basis through Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB). During the last 18 months more than 1000 different scientific posts of different levels have been filled up/advertised for recruitment.

Out of overall scientific cadre's sanctioned strength of 6313 in the ICAR, less than 10% of posts are vacant.

(c) It is normal that 7-8% of total posts of an organization remain vacant due to death, retirements on superannuation, resignations, inter-organizational movement etc. Recruitment is a continuous process being undertaken by the ASRB following due process for various scientific positions.

**(d) & (e):** Does not arise.

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