

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 512
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/12/2018

**ESTABLISHING WORLD CLASS AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY**

512. **SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE:**

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan under consideration to start world class agriculture university in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Government of India (MHRD) through UGC published an advertisement on the website on 12/09/2017 inviting the applications for the Institution of Eminence so as to make the world class university. Under this advertisement, only the selected universities were asked to submit the proposal. The universities which ranked in top 100 as per the NIRF ranking 2017 were only considered eligible to apply along with the application fee of Rs.1.0 crore. In context to this, Anand Agricultural University, Anand (Gujarat), Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi & Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore amongst the Agricultural Universities (viz, State Agricultural Universities applied for the same). A status report in this regard is **annexed**.
- (c) Not applicable.

Status of the Agricultural Universities which applied for Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme of MHRD

Government of India committed to the nation to evolve a policy to help higher educational institutions to become world class teaching, and research institutions and following that the Hon'ble Finance Minister announced in his budget speech in 2016 that "It is our commitment to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions. An enabling regulatory architecture to be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions. This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians.

In order to realise that goal, the MHRD and the UGC evolved a policy that was incorporated in the UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as Institutions of Eminence) Guidelines, 2017 and UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017, wherein the declared objective was 'to provide an enabling regulatory architecture to ten public and ten private higher educational institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions'.

UGC appointed an Empowered Expert Committee (EEC), with the approval of government of India, to select the 20 high potential institutions and then, among other tasks, to monitor and review the implementation plans of the selected institutions.

Four Agricultural Institutes/universities namely, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore presented before Expert Empowered Committee (EEC) for selection of Institute of Eminence (IoE).

As per the report of the EEC (downloaded from UGC website in July, 2018) sectoral and narrowly focused institutions, e.g. Management, Agricultural, Technology, Medicines etc. were not selected by EEC under IoE category. However, EEC recommended selected institutions in these categories as Special Institutes and to invest in them so as to allow them to excel. As per this report under this category ICAR-IARI and PAU were also selected. However, it is observed that at initial stage no agricultural universities have been selected for it.
