

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1942
ANSWERED ON- 23/12/2022

SETTING UP OF A ICAR CENTRE IN BIHAR

1942. SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an area covering 13,340 sq. kms of mountainous river basin, located across seven districts of Bihar, has the potential to become the 'Pulse Bowl' of the country which could also reduce the import of pulses;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to set up a centre of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at Mokama, Patna (Bihar) to increase the production of pulses; and
- (c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): The Bihar state presently accounts for only 1-2% of the total area under pulses in the country. The ICAR is implementing All India Coordinated Research Projects on important *kharif* and *rabi* pulses in collaboration with the Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour (Bhagalpur) with its centre at Sabour and Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa (Samastipur) with centre at Dholi to cater the location specific varietal and technological needs and requirement of the pulses growing farmers of the state. During the last eight years 20 high yielding climate resilient varieties of gram, arhar, lentil, mungbean, urdbean, fieldpea and fababean have been notified for commercial cultivation in Bihar. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established by the ICAR in each district of Bihar are regularly conducting large number of frontline demonstrations on pulses at the farmers' fields to popularize and for early adoption of the latest varieties and production technologies. The ICAR has also established eight Seed Hubs on Pulses in as many districts of Bihar to provide quality certified seed of pulses to the farmers. Besides, at the national level, the ICAR established Indian Institute of Pulses Research at Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), to carry out basic, strategic and research on pulses for the benefit of entire country. Its Regional Station at Khordha (Odisha) has been established for carrying out research on pulses of humid agro-ecology of eastern India including that of Bihar. At present there is no proposal to set up a centre of Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Mokama, Patna (Bihar).
