

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 197
ANSWERED ON- 03/02/2023

SETTING UP OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

197. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up an Agricultural Education Council of India or a similar body to oversee, regulate and facilitate agricultural education in the country, Statewise including Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the institutional arrangement which is in place at present to oversee, regulate and facilitate agricultural education in the country, State-wise;
- (d) the efforts made by Government to promote agricultural education in the last five years; and
- (e) other steps taken by Government to integrate the agriculture world with the new education policy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): There is no proposal to set up Agricultural Education Council of India. New Education Policy (NEP) - 2020, envisages a General Education Council (GEC) and sectoral Committees such as Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for Agricultural Education as Professional Standard Setting Bodies (PSSBs) and PSSBs as members in the GEC to lay down academic standards and to coordinate between teaching, research and extension of their domain/discipline.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

(d) ICAR provides need based financial assistance to promote Agricultural Education in Agricultural Universities under Plan Scheme “Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India” in following ways:

- i. Upgradation, strengthening, modernization and enhancement of amenities and infrastructure pertaining to teaching, learning and support to students' research and assurance of quality in higher agricultural education.
- ii. Establishment of smart and virtual classrooms, library automation, Industry Interaction Cells, Placement cells, alumni cells in the Universities.
- iii. Establishment of Learning and Assessment Centres, E-learning Studios, Career Development Centres, Faculty Development Centres, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Labs, 3D Printing Labs, Student Hostels, Examination Halls, Auditoriums etc. Development of more than 200 pilot course-curriculums/certificate courses on emerging areas of Agriculture and Allied Sectors under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- iv. The number and amount of fellowships have been enhanced to attract talent to promote Agricultural Education.
- v. To create awareness among children, Agricultural Education Day is celebrated on 3rd December to commemorate the birth anniversary of (Late) Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was the first Food and Agriculture Minister of Independent India.

(e) The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to integrate the Agriculture with New Education Policy (NEP)-2020:

- i. More than 250 vocational courses have been started across the Country to get students acquainted with latest knowledge of Agriculture and Allied Sciences.
- ii. Directives have been issued to all the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) to increase 10% seats for admission in Under Graduate Programmes every year to enhance the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER).
- iii. The residential requirement of staying in the campus has been relaxed.
- iv. 6th Deans Committee has been constituted for restructuring and reframing the graduation programme by introducing certificate courses, diploma and degree courses during Under Graduate Programme as per directives of NEP- 2020.
- v. The provision of Academic Bank of Credit as per NEP for students pursuing Degree Programme has been introduced in Agricultural Universities.
