

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-668
ANSWERED ON- 25/07/2025

LEGISLATION TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF ICAR

668. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating the introduction of legislation specific to further enhance efficiency and accountability of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of a representation submitted to examine legislations of Ontario (Canada), Tanzania, Mauritius and Sierra Leone which seek to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural research activities and accountability, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to engage private sector in agricultural research activities and conduct scientific audits by external agencies to evaluate each research project by ICAR, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): Government is not contemplating the introduction of such legislation for Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

(b): Yes, the Government has taken cognizance of the representation. To address the evolving challenges and to make Indian agriculture more resilient, profitable, and sustainable, NITI Aayog has formulated a comprehensive vision for Agriculture and the Rural Economy, aligned with the goals of *Viksit Bharat by 2047*. Accordingly, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have strategically aligned their research, education, and extension systems with this national vision.

ICAR, a nearly century-old institution, has evolved into one of the world's largest networks of agricultural research and education. Since independence, ICAR has played a pivotal role in ensuring national food security through scientific and technological advancements, and has significantly contributed to positioning India as a net exporter of agricultural commodities.

(c): The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in India comprises the ICAR, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). NARS engages in collaborative research and development with the private sector in technology development, transfer, and commercialization in agriculture and allied sectors.

The Government, from time to time, undertakes external evaluations of ICAR's schemes to assess the impact of its research programmes and to recommend measures for improving research efficiency and effectiveness. The recent such evaluation was undertaken during 2020–21, covering ICAR schemes implemented in the period 2017–2020.
