

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2253
ANSWERED ON- 19/12/2025

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH INITIATIVES OF ICAR

2253. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to constitute a high-power Committee of distinguished agricultural technocrats to revamp and strengthen Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) research initiatives;
- (b) whether ICAR has sought written feedback from State Governments regarding the difficulties faced by farming communities;
- (c) the manner in which ICAR plans to conduct research customized to the local climatic, soil and geophysical conditions of each State to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability; and
- (d) reasons for not considering a legislation to make ICAR's research activities legally accountable, ensuring transparency, effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of farmers?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government, from time to time, constitutes high-power committees comprising distinguished agricultural technocrats and other experts to review the research programmes and initiatives of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and to suggest ways for enhancing research output of the ICAR. Notable among these are: Dr G.V.K. Rao Committee (1988) on strengthening inter-institutional linkages; Dr Johl Committee (1995), to provide functional autonomy in research-related matters; and the Moshelkar Committee (2005), aimed at improving the research base and strengthening the ICAR-industry interface. Last such committee was constituted in 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr Deepak Pental to undertake an outcome-based review of various ICAR schemes implemented during the XII Five-Year Plan period.

(b): ICAR has eight regional committees to take the stock of various researchable issues. Since agriculture is the State Subject, ICAR supports State Governments in the development and demonstration of location specific and improved agricultural technologies through its institutes, Agricultural Technology Applications Research Institutes (ATARIs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs).

(c): ICAR conducts research specific to the local climatic and geophysical conditions for suitability of technologies in various agro-ecological zones, soil types, climatic type, and crop suitability, allowing for region-specific research and technology development. ICAR collaborates with SAUs through All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) for addressing localized researchable issues.

ICAR also promotes climate-resilient agriculture through development of drought-resistant crop varieties, efficient water management practices, and sustainable farming techniques suitable to local climatic stresses. At district-level, KVKS provide training, frontline demonstrations, on-farm trials and technological backstopping.

(d): ICAR a nearly century-old institution, has evolved into one of the world's largest networks of agricultural research, education and extension. 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. The Council has established a mechanism of scientific audit protocol for research activities, wherein the research programs/ activities of all ICAR institutes undergo annual monitoring by the Research Advisory Council (RAC) and a comprehensive evaluation every five years by the Quinquennial Review Team (QRT). These committees, assess institutional progress and provide guidance on future research directions. Besides, the Institute Research Committee (IRC), oversees the planning, execution, and periodic review of in-house research projects. All these evaluations are for assessing the scientific output, institutional governance, and financial efficiency. In addition, the Government, from time to time, undertakes external evaluations of ICAR's schemes/ programs to assess the impact of its research programmes and to recommend measures for improving research efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness to the need of farmers. The recent such evaluation was undertaken during 2020–21, covering ICAR schemes implemented during the period of 2017–2020.
