

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3274**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/01/2019

**ATTRACTING YOUTH TOWARDS AGRICULTURE**

3274. SHRI MAGANTTI VENKATESWARA RAO (BABU):

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to attract youth towards agriculture and its allied activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
**(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) & (b):** Yes Madam, Realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated a program on “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture” (ARYA) during the XII plan. Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) project is being implemented in 25 States through KVKs, one district from each State. Depending upon the type of enterprise, individual or group-based activities/enterprises are being encouraged. In one district, about 100-200 rural youths are identified for their skill development in entrepreneurial activities and establishment of related micro-enterprise units in the different areas of enterprises. The major enterprises being considered in the project include Apiary, Mushroom, Seed Processing, Poultry, Dairy, Goatry, Carp-hatchery, Vermi-compost etc., Under this project, operational costs to support critical inputs like seeds, fertilizers, small equipment are being provided to farm youth. This provides additional opportunities to the unemployed rural youth in primary and secondary agriculture and related enterprises.

Under the project, currently 4280 youths in various groups have been oriented for establishing micro-entrepreneurial units. To strengthen it further, during the year 2018-19, the ARYA project is being extended to additional 75 KVKs.

- (c) Question does not arise.

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