

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4471
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th MARCH, 2023

MODERNISING AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES

4471. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:
MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE:
SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:

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

- (a) the role of agricultural universities in the development of the agriculture sector in the country particularly of Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour in Bhagalpur, Bihar;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to modernize the agriculture universities to accelerate agricultural activities and research particularly in the said university in Sabour;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the current number of vacant posts of researchers in the said universities;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to fill the said posts;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to set up an All India Body on the line of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to monitor the functioning of agriculture university in Sabour; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The Agricultural Universities (AUs) including Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour have rendered a great service to the nation in the field of Higher Agricultural Education, Research & Extension. Their contribution to the Agricultural growth in India is immense.

The quality manpower produced by the AUs in the field of agriculture and allied areas have resulted in achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting

sustainable agriculture through development of newer and better varieties, increased yield and productivity, adaptation policies aligning with the on-going development programmes. Skilling and encouraging entrepreneurship have stimulated innovation and domestic demand leading to increased opportunities for productive employment through decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

(b) and (c): Agriculture including Agricultural Education is a state subject. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the aegis of Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) supports in terms of financial grants for strengthening and development of higher agricultural education in India. The details of infrastructure supported for modernizing AUs across states including Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour under the schemes “Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India (SDHAEI)” and “National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)” are as under:

- i. Establishment of smart and virtual classrooms, library automation, Industry Interaction Cells, Placement cells, alumni cells.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Capacity building of faculty in various cutting-edge areas.
- iv. Upgradation and strengthening of laboratories with latest equipment.
- v. Attracting talented students towards higher agricultural education, through fellowships/scholarships & admission through national level exam in Agricultural Universities (AUs).

(d) and (e) The State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) function under the control of respective State Governments. Creation and filling up of posts of teachers/researchers in SAUs is the responsibility of the State Governments. The current status of vacant posts of researchers/teachers in Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) and ICAR Deemed Universities (DUs) is given below:

University	Vacancy position
03 CAUs	489
04 DUs	301

During the pandemic, the process of filling up of vacant posts could not be carried out. The Government has now started the process of filling up of vacant posts in CAUs and DUs.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal to set up an All India Body on the line of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to monitor the functioning of agriculture universities including Bihar Agricultural University in Sabour. 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.
