

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/02/2020

ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ICAR

311. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has allocated adequate funds to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to meet the requirements and challenges of agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details of the funds allocated, released and spent during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any review of the functioning of the ICAR in the recent years;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has taken note of the huge number of vacant posts lying in the ICAR since long; and
- (e) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government to provide all the necessary facilities to encourage the ICAR to work to meet its requirements and challenges of agriculture sector?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The budgetary allocation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 was Rs 5782.13, 6740.55 and 7564.51 crores respectively which was released to ICAR research institutes/ establishments under various schemes operational in the Council. The budget utilisation during the past three years was Rs 5735.13 (99.2%), 6341.27 (94.1%) and 7243.19 (95.8%) crores respectively.

(c) The Peer Review Team headed by Dr T. Ramasami setup by the Government has reviewed the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently. The Committee submitted its recommendations to the Government in 2017. The recommendations of the Peer Review Team on Techno-Functional aspects have been examined and accepted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research for action by all concerned.

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(d) Recruitment for all vacant positions against specialised positions is done by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), which is a continuous process. To improve the recruitment process, ASRB has been restructured by the Government during August 2018. The full board is now in position and the recruitment process has been fast-tracked.

(e) Government has taken a number of measures to address the Challenges faced by the Agriculture Sector. Two new Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) like Institutions of excellence have been established, one each in Assam and Jharkhand; Rajendra Agricultural University has been upgraded to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University; National Research Centre for Integrated Farming established in Motihari (Bihar). Besides this, ICAR established six new Regional Research Stations of various ICAR Institutes in MP, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal during the last 5 years. Financial support has also been extended to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Haryana Governments for the establishment of new Agriculture and Horticulture Universities. Flagship schemes have been implemented to promote research in different areas of agricultural and allied sectors to increase agricultural productivity and minimize crop loss. A new state of the art Phonemics Facility has been created at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi for conducting advanced research on climate reliance. For fostering the growth of sustainable business endeavor and to nurture the techno-entrepreneurs, the Council has established 50 Agri-Business Incubators at ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities.

Owing to various Government initiatives, ICAR has been able to develop a number of varieties, technologies for effectively addressing various challenges faced by the agricultural sector of the country. A total of 1020 high yielding varieties of various crops have been developed during the period 2014-2019 as compared to 545 varieties developing during 2009-2014. Similarly, 339 high yielding varieties of fruits vegetables and other horticultural crops were developed during 2014-19 compared to 269 varieties during the period 2009 to 2014. ICAR during the last 5 years' period has developed 53 bio-fortified varieties to effectively tackle the problem of malnutrition in the country. Creation of 150 seed hubs of pulse crops, together with policy support has enabled the Country to attain near self-sufficiency in pulse crops. A total of 41 new cattle species have been registered and notified, 6 new varieties of pigs and 5 new high producing back yard poultry varieties besides 10 vaccines and 43 diagnostic kits for major animal diseases were developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during the years 2014 to 2019.

ICAR has also developed 51 integrated farming systems models and same number of (51) organic farming models suitable for various agro-ecologies of the country. As part of National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), climate resilient technologies are being demonstrated in 151 climatically vulnerability districts of the country. The district based contingency plans have been prepared for 650 rural districts in the country and hosted on ICAR/DAC websites (<http://farmer.gov.in/>, <http://agricoop.nic.in/acp.html>, <http://crida.in/>). These are made available to all state agriculture departments for implementation. During 2014-19, ICAR developed 23197 prototypes of improved agriculture machinery besides establishing 126 agro-processing centres and 45 Food Processing Laboratories across various parts of the country. These efforts are helping the farming community of the country by increasing efficiency, reducing crop loss and improving their income.