

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/09/2020

ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL STUDIES

1605. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) the steps taken to enhance agricultural studies in India;
- (b) the number of Central Government institutes imparting Bachelors degrees and Masters degrees in agriculture studies in India; and
- (c) whether the Government will consider establishing a Central Agriculture University in Assam, particularly in lower Assam, if so, the details of the same?

A N S W E R

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

- (a) To popularize and enhance higher agricultural education, the Plan scheme “*Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India*” is in operation.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides limited need based funding for enhancing and strengthening student and faculty amenities, student hostels, modernization of laboratories, smart and virtual classrooms and state of the art equipment for Central instrumentation laboratory. ICAR also supports curriculum development and Post Graduate research in basic and frontier science subjects.

Towards entrepreneurship development amongst students, 'Student READY' (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) programme has been implemented.

To attract and sustain the interest of youth in agriculture education the Council provides Stipend and Fellowships/assistance under various programs. Assistance in the form of fellowship for global exposure of the agriculture students is also provided. The details of various fellowship/stipend/assistance programmes are given in **Annexure-1**.

National Agricultural Education Project with World Bank support has also been implemented to revamp and reorient the higher agricultural education in the country and ensure reforms and quality assurance.

ICAR conducts All India Entrance Examination for Admission (AIEEA) to 15% seats in Bachelor degree programmes and 25% seats each in Master's and Doctoral degree programmes in accredited Agricultural Universities (AUs) under the ICAR-AU system. It ensures Pan-India competition and better quality of students.

(b) Three (03) Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs), four (04) ICAR Deemed Universities and four (04) Central Universities with Agricultural Faculty are imparting Bachelors degrees and/or Masters degrees in agriculture studies in the Country.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Annexure-1

[Part (a) of Lok Sabha USQ No.1605 for 20/09/2020]

1. ICAR awards NTS (UG) @Rs. 3,000/- p.m. for pursuing Bachelor's degree programme, 600 ICAR-PG Scholarships @ Rs. 12,640/- p.m. for pursuing Masters degree programme and 300 Junior/Senior Research Fellowships [JRF/SRF (Ph.D.)], for pursuing doctoral degree programme in Agriculture & Allied Sciences @ Rs. 31,000/- p.m. for 1st and 2nd year and Rs. 35,000/- p.m. for 3rd year. Non-PG scholarship candidates are also eligible to get NTS (PG) @ Rs. 5,000/- p.m. for pursuing Master's degree programmes.
2. To support the bright and talented researchers to pursue Post-Doctoral Programme to build capacity in frontier areas of national interest in Agriculture and Allied Sciences, a new initiative with 25 ICAR-Post-Doctoral Fellowships (ICAR-PDF) has been initiated from F.Y. 2019-20 with the provision of Rs. 75,000/- p.m. and Contingency of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per annum to the fellows for a period of one year.
3. In addition, Merit-cum-Means and Post-Matric Scholarships are also provided @Rs. 1000/- p.m. to attract meritorious undergraduate students belonging to below poverty line and from the weaker sections of the society.
