

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4594
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/03/2021

CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES

4594. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:
SHRI REBATI TRIPURA:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

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

- (a) the contribution of Agriculture Universities in the development of agricultural sector in the country;
- (b) whether the number of agricultural colleges in the country is less which has affected the growth of agriculture and its research, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to modernize agricultural universities to expedite agricultural work and its research, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether researchers in agricultural universities face difficulties in doing advance research work due to lack of various technologies in the universities and if so, the remedial action taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) the total number of vacancies of researchers in these universities at present and the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies in Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to set up an All India Body on the lines of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for agricultural colleges to monitor and better regulate their functioning, if so, the details thereof?

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 PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) The Agricultural Universities (AUs) 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 note-worthy.

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- The quality manpower produced in the field of agriculture and allied areas have resulted in achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture through development of newer and better varieties and increased yield and productivity. Climate change impact, adaptation policies and aligning with the on-going development programmes.
- The AUs have contributed towards education for sustainable development: The Agriculture Universities **ensures** that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, Agri education & extension through knowledge, skill, and other outreach programmes which have played a major role for transition to sustainable agricultural developments.
- **Skilling, Entrepreneurship & Job creation** Encouraging entrepreneurship has stimulated innovation and domestic demand, and have increased opportunities for productive employment through decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

(b) No, Sir. There are 63 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), 3 Central Agriculture Universities (CAUs), 4 Deemed Universities and 4 Central Universities with Agriculture Faculty totaling to 74, Agricultural Universities (AUs) with their 397 constituent colleges.

(c) A centrally sponsored plan scheme “*Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India*”, is being implemented for maintaining and upgrading quality and relevance of higher agricultural education. The details are as follows:

- National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) is being implemented towards modernising the agricultural universities to improve the quality and relevance in agri-higher education.
- NAHEP has awarded the sub-projects to 58 Agricultural Universities (AUs) /ICAR institutes to improve the modernisation through establishment of 16 Centre for Advanced Agricultural Sciences and Technology (CAAST) on emerging thematic areas of agriculture and allied sciences, modernised more than 150 classrooms, conference halls, initiated Institute Industry Interactions Cells (IIC), placement cells, alumni cells, upgraded laboratories with modern equipment, established Career Development Centres (CDCs) and Faculty Development Centres (FDCs), incubation centres.
- Along with the infrastructure modernisation, NAHEP has also focused on improving quality and relevance through providing international trainings to students and faculties, establishing industry-academia linkages with national and international organisation, organising national level trainings on skill development, entrepreneurship, international languages, emerging areas of agri and allied, exposure visits to industry etc.

(d) No, Sir. To improve the quality of research and for attaining excellence in specific strategic areas in education and research and capacity building the universities are being supported in specific Niche Areas under the Scheme “*Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India*” of Education Division, ICAR.

(e) Agriculture including Agricultural Education is state subject, therefore number of vacancies of researchers in these universities at present and the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies in States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are in purview of concerned State and Union Territory Governments.

(f) No, Sir. The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) recommends a regulatory system under one umbrella of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).