GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 215
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH AUGUST, 2024

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

*215.   SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government has any plans to formulate an Industrial policy or manufacturing strategy that involves the collaboration of higher educational institutions to create employment opportunities in primary sectors like agriculture, particularly in State like Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of initiatives taken by the Government to attract educated researchers towards the agricultural sector through skill enhancement programs, ensuring that their expertise contribute meaningfully to the growth and technological advancements in the agricultural domain?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c):   A statement is laid on the Table of the house.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 215 REGARDING "EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR" FOR REPLY ON 6TH August, 2024.

(a) to (c):   The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has implemented several initiatives under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) (2018-2024) to enhance quality of education and generate employment in the agricultural sector by providing various facilities to students and faculty of 62 Agricultural Universities (AUs) across the country, including Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

NAHEP has provided international training to 2,701 students and 1,073 faculty members from 48 AUs. They partnered with 179 top foreign institutions in 37 countries to cover 831 emerging areas in agriculture and related fields, enhancing global perspective and advanced knowledge among participants.

Nationally, AUs have conducted over 12,000 trainings aimed at enhancing both technical and interpersonal skills among students. The focus areas of these trainings include cutting-edge topics such as precision farming, Internet of Things (IoT) and robotics in agriculture, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), advanced agriculture and horticulture techniques, value addition techniques, hydroponics and aeroponics, sustainable agriculture, and plant breeding and genetics.

These initiatives have greatly improved students' technical skills and managerial abilities, giving them the business knowledge needed for entrepreneurship. Training in business analytics, foreign languages, communication skills, and remedial courses has enriched their learning experience. Together, these programs have made students well-prepared and market-ready for the evolving agricultural sector.

During the project period, 3,700 guest lectures on entrepreneurship were organized, links established with over 700 organizations, and around 3,500 national training sessions and seminars were conducted to boost students' scientific entrepreneurship and research skills.

Additionally, over 500 pilot courses on emerging agricultural areas and skill enhancements have been introduced.

Overall, NAHEP benefited approximately 514,822 participants.

Benefits of NAHEP to Andhra Pradesh

In the context of Andhra Pradesh, NAHEP has facilitated international training programmes for 140 students of ANGRAU, Guntur in countries like USA, Finland, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Taiwan. Additionally, 24 faculty members participated in international trainings at reputed institutions in USA, Australia, and Thailand.

The ANGRAU, Guntur also collaborated with national training institutions to enhance student skills through personality development programmes, English and foreign language classes, entrepreneurship programs, and skill development programs in advanced technologies such as drones, blockchain, IoT, robotics, and artificial intelligence. During the project period, 81 programmes were conducted, benefiting 9,724 students.

Furthermore, under NAHEP, two national trainings have been organized on Natural Farming for 79 faculty members and conducted 85 workshops, webinars, seminars, and lecture series with eminent scientists and professors, benefiting 30,334 participants of the University.

The project also facilitated the creation of two central instrumentation facilities, seven smart and virtual classrooms, seven organic waste composters, five language labs, and upgraded libraries, enhancing the teaching, learning, and research experiences for faculty and students of ANGRAU.

Overall, NAHEP activities, including infrastructure development, skill-based programs, and international training, have significantly improved the academic, research excellence and employment generation in agricultural sector, providing long-lasting benefits to the beneficiaries and attract educated researchers towards the agricultural sector.

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