

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK S A B H A

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2971

TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

2971. SHRI AJAY BHATT

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make any industrial policy or manufacturing action plan which aims to promote the participation of higher educational institutions in generating employment opportunities in primary sectors like agriculture particularly in the State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to attract educated research scholars to agriculture through skill development programmes so as to ensure that their expertise can contribute meaningfully to the development and technological progress in the agriculture sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

to (c): The Government is implementing various programmes which aims to promote the participation of higher educational institutions in generating employment opportunities in primary sectors like agriculture, across the country including Uttarakhand.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a programme in undergraduate curriculum of higher education in agriculture and allied subjects namely, "Student READY" (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojna), since 2016-17 in all Agricultural Universities (AUs). It is a well-structured one-year

programme which includes following components designed to provide the desired skills to all agricultural students to develop their entrepreneurial skills for establishment of their own enterprises in the field of agriculture and allied sectors for better employment as well as for the development and technological progress in the agriculture sector.

The five components of the Student READY programme are:

- i. Experiential Learning - Business Mode
- ii. Experiential Learning – Hands-on-Training (Skill Development)
- iii. Rural Awareness Work Experience (RAWE)
- iv. In Plant Training/ Industrial attachment/ Internship
- v. Students Projects

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) programme, since 2002, with the main objective to promote involvement of trained graduates in agriculture and allied subjects in providing advisory and extension services to the farmers in agriculture and allied areas through agriventures established as self-employment ventures. Training is imparted by National Institute of Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad through selected Nodal Training Institutes. In the State of Uttarakhand, so far, 608 candidates have been trained of which 212 candidates have established their ventures and are giving services to the farmers.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW), Government of India is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2018-19 onwards with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing an incubation ecosystem in the country. This Department has appointed five Knowledge Partners (KPs) and twenty-four RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country for implementation assistance and incubation of startups under this programme. Start-ups are taking projects in various field of agriculture and allied sectors like Precision agriculture including applications of sensor, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Information & Communication Technology (ICT), & drone, Farm Mechanization, Post-Harvest, Food Technology & Value addition, Supply Chain and Agriculture logistics & agriculture inputs, Waste to Wealth & Green Energy in Agriculture & Organic Farming, Allied Sectors etc.

The Government of Uttarakhand is promoting participation of higher educational institutions in generating employment opportunities in the primary sector, including agriculture through the following programmes.

i. Uttarakhand State Startup Policy-2023

The policy aims to support startups, including those in the agriculture sector, by providing various benefits such as monthly allowances, marketing assistance, patent fees reimbursement, and exemption from stamp duty.

ii. Uttarakhand offers investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, with incentives such as:

- Capital Grant: Up to 50% of the capital cost for setting up or scaling up incubators.
- Operating Expenses: Rs. 2 lakhs per year for incubators.
- Tax Benefits: Exemption from stamp duty and reimbursement of SGST.

These initiatives demonstrate the state government's efforts to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and employment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture.

iii. The government of Uttarakhand has launched several initiatives to attract educated research scholars to the agriculture sector through skill development programs:

- Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry: Established in 2011, this university offers various courses, including certificate-level programs, to promote research and development in agriculture and horticulture.
- Uttarakhand Council for Biotechnology (UCB): Conducts training programs in biotechnology, including plant tissue culture, molecular biology, and genetic engineering, to equip students with skills relevant to the agriculture sector.
- "Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion" (SANKALP) project of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, provides technical support to the Directorate of Training & Employment, Government of Uttarakhand in planning, development, monitoring, and coordination of skill development activities in various sectors including agriculture.
