

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3721
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/12/2015

HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

3721. DR. K. KAMARAJ:

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

- (a) whether the Government is ascending high priority to higher education in agriculture and animal husbandry along with their allied subjects; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और कृषक कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has been co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the country. Government is supporting State Agricultural Universities to improve agriculture education through:-

- (i) Human Resource Development
(ii) Educational Planning and Development
(iii) Educational Quality Assurance and Reforms

Details enclosed as per **Annexure**.

Details of initiatives taken by the Government giving high priority to higher education in agriculture and animal husbandry and their allied subject.

(i) Human Resource Development

- Centralized admissions, through All India Entrance examination, at UG (15%) & PG (25%) level to encourage overall merit and national integration.
- Awarding Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowships to attract talented students.
- Capacity building of faculty of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in Cutting-edge-areas through Centers of Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT)/Summer-Winter Schools (SWS). Incentive for quality teaching given in the form of best teacher award.
- Promoting excellence and novel school of thought by National Professors and National Fellows.
- Superannuated scientists engaged in addressing key issues through Emeritus Scientist scheme.
- Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWEX) at the UG level encouraged to gain rural life work experience.
- International fellowships for Ph.D for research in reputed global laboratories with an objective to develop competent human resource and showcasing the strengths of Indian ICAR-AUs System.
- Catalytic support for faculty exchange and adjunct faculty is being provided to address the faculty shortage in Agricultural Universities.

(ii) Educational Planning & Home Science

- For maintaining and upgrading quality and relevance of higher agricultural education, a centrally sponsored Plan Scheme “ Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India” is being implemented.
- Encouraged and facilitated participation of girls in agricultural education and ensuring gender mainstreaming by supporting girls’ hostels. In addition, support is also provided for boys’ hostels in Agricultural Universities.
- Examination Halls supported for conducting examinations in a fair and transparent manner.
- Creation of educational museums for ensuring showcasing of technology.
- Support for modernizing and strengthening of academic facilities, laboratories, computer labs, internet connectivity, faculty improvement, course curriculum delivery, preparation of practical manuals, career placement and alumni interaction, smart classrooms for enhancing the quality of teaching, educational tours and contingency for the practicals etc. leading to improved/upgraded academic environment in AUs

- Holistic Development of students encouraged by providing funds to AUs with focus on overall personality development and counselling with emphasis on extracurricular activities and refinement of soft skills.
- In order to achieve excellence in teaching, research, consultancy and capacity building niche area of excellence is being supported in specific cutting edge areas.
- To provide much-needed skill and developing entrepreneurship and building confidence among UG students, Experiential Learning modules have been established in AUs.
- To enhance learning resources including writing of text books and preparation of quality instructional material and e-facilities, the libraries of AUs and that of their constituent colleges are being strengthened benefiting the students across the country, leading to improved quality of postgraduate education and research.

(iii) Educational Quality Assurance and Reforms

- For improving educational standards and assuring an acceptable institutional quality, the accreditation of AUs and their constituent colleges is being done at regular intervals by an Accreditation Board established by the Council with well defined objectives and functions.
- To ensure uniformity of structure, governance and efficiency of the AUs the Model Act for AUs was prepared and has been revised in 2009.
- To keep pace with the ever changing scenario in agriculture the norms, standards and course curricula are updated and revised as per need by constitution of Dean's Committees from time to time.
- Research and instructional capabilities of farms are being strengthened by providing support for modernization of AU farms.
