

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1648
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8TH MARCH, 2016

FOREIGN COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

1648. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various foreign countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof, country-wise;
- (c) the details of ongoing pilot projects in cooperation with foreign countries in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to sign any MoU with such countries in food storage, preservation and irrigation technology and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the agriculture and allied sectors are likely to be benefited from such MoU?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. During last five years, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has signed 11 MoUs/Agreements with foreign countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sector. Details of these MoUs/Agreements are as under:-

| Year | Country(s) |
|------------------|---|
| 2011 | Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh; |
| 2012 | Sri Lanka, Australia, Vietnam |
| 2013 | -- |
| 2014 | Morocco, Vietnam |
| 2015 | Mongolia |
| 2016 (till date) | Armenia, Madagascar |

The area for cooperation in these MoUs/Agreements inter-alia include cooperation in research and development, increasing productivity, post-harvest management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, enhancing trade, mutual exchange visits of scientist, mutual exchange of technical

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expertise, exchange of Germ-plasm, transfer of technology, setting up of centres of excellence in different fields to demonstrate new technologies etc.

(c): Based on the areas agreed for cooperation between two countries, a Work Plan is prepared from time to time to incorporate project proposal as per mutual requirements.

(d): At present Government doesn't have any proposal for signing a new MOU with these countries.

(e): Benefits accruing from such Agreements/MoUs are in the nature of capacity building, knowledge exchange through visits of scientists and technicians, exchange of genetic resources, etc. that aid in development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity at farmers' field. Such cooperation also facilitates creation of opportunities for trade in agricultural commodities. India's strategic interests are also served through partnerships with other countries.
