

(d) As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to convert infertile, inferior and barren land into arable/agricultural land.

However, to supplement State's efforts to convert infertile, inferior and barren land into arable/agricultural land by extending irrigation facilities the Government of India launched in July, 2015, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The above scheme aims at providing end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, and distribution network and farm level applications. It adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. Under the above Scheme, micro irrigation is also popularised to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'.

Besides, Ministry of Rural Development had also been implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas. From 2015-16 onwards, the IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the PMKSY.

#### **Vacant posts of agricultural scientists**

2168. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture profession in the country is facing a dearth of agricultural scientists;

(b) whether more than 1000 posts of agricultural scientists, against sanctioned posts, are lying vacant in the country, including in institutions of ICAR;

(c) whether appointments are not being made even after constitutions of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB); and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In this connection it is mentioned that the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is a vast network with ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Institutes, SAUs (State Agricultural Universities)/CAUs/KVKs spread across the country which meets the requirement of human resources engagement in the fields of research/extension/education in agriculture. The

responsibility for filling up the vacant positions pertaining to different SAUs vests with them and they work under the respective State Governments. In respect of ICAR, the ASRB (Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board), an independent recruitment agency, is responsible for recruitment of scientific positions both through the process of direct recruitment under ARS examination and lateral entry for senior scientific positions.

Recruitment of ICAR Scientists is a continuous process. All possible steps are being taken to fill vacant positions of Agricultural Scientists on priority basis through Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB)

Out of overall scientific cadres' sanctioned strength of 6313 in the ICAR, less than 10% of posts are vacant.

(c) and (d) It is normal that 7-8% of total posts of an organization remain vacant due to death, retirements on superannuation, resignations, inter-organizational movement etc. Recruitment is a continuous process being undertaken by the ASRB following due process for various scientific positions.

#### **Policy to boost production of pulses**

2169. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed a panel for formulating a long term policy framework to boost output of pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the panel has been asked to look into interventions at the farm policy level, including reasonable increase in Minimum Support Prices for the pulses and bonus for farmers for producing pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the panel is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Government has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Economic Adviser to review Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and bonus for pulses.

(c) The report of committee is likely to be submitted not later than early September, 2016.