

HS-I dated 18.11.16 to initiate the process for the establishment of the Regional Station at Jegurupadu H/o Madhavarayudupalem village and Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh State under ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. The Director, CPCRI has taken up the matter and sent a letter to the Commissioner of Horticulture, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

In view of above, the Commissioner of Horticulture, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh *vide* letter No. P&M(1) 47/2015, dated 27.11.16 has sent a letter to the Collector and District Magistrate, East Godavari requesting to initiate necessary action for transfer of proposed land at Jegurupadu, H/o of Mr Palem village Kadiyam mandal in the name of Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala for taking further action in this regard.

ICAR-CPCRI is waiting for handing over of the proposed land at MR palayam, kadayam mandalam near Rajamandary, East Godavari district by Government of Andhra Pradesh to Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. Once the land is transferred to ICAR and there is adequate budget provision, ICAR will be in a position to take appropriate decision in this regard.

#### **Student READY Scheme**

3387. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the student READY scheme rolled out by the Ministry;
- (b) the details of steps being taken by Government to promote agricultural education in the country; and
- (c) the details of steps being taken by Government to incentivise the youths to take up agriculture as a profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Student READY is a new initiative as per V Deans Committee recommendation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to reorient graduates of agriculture and allied subjects for ensuring employability and to develop entrepreneurs for emerging knowledge intensive agriculture. Student READY is an essential course module for the award of degree at Bachelors level to ensure hands on training and practical experience depending on the requirements of respective discipline in Agricultural Universities. This is step forward for articulating education into entrepreneurship and employability.

The Student READY programme includes five components:

- Experiential Learning
- Rural Awareness Works Experience (RAWE)
- In Plant Training/ Industrial attachment
- Hands-on training
- Student Project

There is also a provision of a stipend of ₹ 3000/month/student for a maximum of six months to students undergoing student READY.

(b) 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. The scheme strives to plan, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate agricultural education in the country with an aim to enhance the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education to address the emerging challenges in the agriculture sector. Need based financial support in critical areas is provided to Agricultural Universities (AUs), for strengthening of infrastructure pertaining to student amenities, learning resources strengthening of curriculum delivery, holistic development of students, capacity building of faculty, Niche Area of Excellence, Experiential Learning modules for skill development, Rural Agricultural Work Experience, as well as various other facilities by providing development grant, revision of course curricula as per changing needs, ensuring minimum standards through accreditation.

To popularize and promote Higher Agricultural Education in the country, ICAR conducts the All India Entrance Examination annually for admissions to 15% seats in Bachelor degree programmes, 25 % seats each in Master's and Ph.D. degree programmes in Agricultural Universities. ICAR awards National Talent Scholarship (NTS) in Agriculture & Allied Science subjects @ of ₹ 2000 p.m. for pursuing UG and ₹ 3000 p.m. for PG programmes outside their state of domicile, Junior Research Fellowships (JRFs) for pursuing Masters programme and Senior Research Fellowships (SRFs) for pursuing Ph.D. degree programmes in Agriculture and Allied Sciences. In addition, Merit-cum-Means and Post-Matric Scholarships are also given to attract meritorious undergraduate students belonging to below poverty line and from the weaker section of the society.

(c) To incentivize youths to take up agriculture as a profession some of the programs have been strengthened in Twelfth Plan scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India".

To attract and sustain the interest of youth in agriculture education the ICAR provides Stipend and Fellowships/assistance under various programmes.

The National Talent Scholarships for undergraduate students (NTS-UG) has been enhanced to ₹ 2000/students from existing ₹ 1000/student and Scholarship for PG students has been initiated @ ₹ 3000/ month.

A new Student 'READY' programme has been launched with a stipend of ₹ 3000/ per student /month for maximum of six months.

Assistance in the form of fellowship for global exposure of the agriculture students is also provided.

#### **Policy to reduce cost of drugs**

3388. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production cost of non controlled drugs is many times higher than that of controlled drugs, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any policy to lower the prices of drugs for cancer and AIDS as well as of other lifesaving drugs, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some pharmaceutical companies have threatened to stop manufacturing of drugs in protest against this policy; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP, 2012) has moved from cost based to market based pricing. As such, the data for comparison of production cost of non-controlled medicines with controlled medicines is not maintained in the Department.

- (b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.
- (c) The ceiling prices of formulations/drugs which are listed in National List of