

**Implementation of ICAR projects**

657. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) projects would be implemented in 25 districts (one district from each State) through the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and each KVK would involve about 200 youths below the age of 35, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has made B.Sc. Agriculture a mandatory qualification to get licence for sale of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides which would create several thousand jobs for agriculture graduates, if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Yes Sir, To tap the energy of rural youth in agricultural development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated a project called "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture" (ARYA) during the XII Plan period which is being implemented in 25 States through KVKs, one district from each State. Depending upon the type of enterprise, individual or group-based activities/enterprises are being encouraged. In one district, about 100-200 rural youth below the age of 35 years are identified for their skill development in entrepreneurial activities and establishment of related micro-enterprise units in the different areas of enterprises in agriculture. This provides additional opportunities to the rural youth in primary and secondary agriculture and related enterprises.

To strengthen it further, during the year 2018-19, the ARYA project was extended to additional 71 KVKs. Under the project, upto 2018-19, 12783 youth in various groups have been oriented for establishing micro-entrepreneurial units.

(b) B.Sc. Agriculture has not been made a mandatory qualification to get license for sale of seeds and fertilizers. However, as per Insecticides Rules, 1971, 'person who applies for the grant of license to sell, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute insecticides shall possess or employ a person possessing a graduate degree in Agricultural Sciences or Biochemistry or Biotechnology or Life Sciences or in Science with Chemistry or

Botany or Zoology from a recognized university or Institute; Or one-year diploma course in Agriculture or Horticulture or related subjects from any government recognized university or institute with course content on plant protection and pesticides management':

Provided that all retailers or dealers possessing a valid license without the prescribed qualification as on the date of publication of these rules as amended by The Insecticides (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017 shall be allowed a period of two years to comply with the said qualifications:

If the existing licensee of pesticide dealers, who are more than forty-five years of age and who have been running their trade either themselves or have inherited with cumulative period of experience of more than ten years as on the date of publication of these rules as amended by The Insecticides (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017 and the annual turnover is less than ₹ Five lakh are exempted from the aforesaid rule for a period of license ship continuing in their name.

#### **Non-receiving of financial benefit by farmers**

658. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of Central Government's announcement on financial benefit to farmers, the farmers of the country are still in the dark about getting their benefits in their account since April 2018;

(b) if so, the details of announcements made by Government from 2017-18 financial year onwards;

(c) the support that has been extended to farmers since 2018, State-wise; and

(d) the proposal of Government to meet the demands of and commitments to farmers of the country and the time schedule thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) The Government has been effectively implementing different schemes and financial benefits have been transferred to the farmers directly or indirectly as per the provisions of the schemes. The various schemes