

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2089
ANSWERED ON- 13/12/2024

UNIFORM SERVICE CONDITIONS FOR KVK STAFF

2089. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) the measures being taken to ensure uniform service conditions, including pay structures, leave policies, and post-retirement benefits for staff across all Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under various host organizations;
- (b) whether Government is considering a policy to standardize employment conditions for KVK staff to prevent disparities among employees in different host organizations; and
- (c) whether Government has evaluated the impact of recent communications of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the morale and retention of KVK staff under non-ICAR organizations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOWDHARY)

(a): The Scheme “Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)” provides for establishment of a KVK under the aegis of a Host Organization (which can be one out of an institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural University (SAU), Central Agricultural University (CAU), Deemed to be University, State Government, other educational Institutes, Public Sector Undertaking, Central University and Non-Government Organization). At the time of establishment of a KVK, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is signed between ICAR and the respective Host Organization. As per this MoU/MoA, both the parties are bound by the following terms and conditions:

- The Council shall provide grant for the project on KVK according to the pattern of assistance approved under the KVK scheme imposed by the Government of India from time to time.

- Assistance of salary in respect of modest office staff necessary to support the scheme.
- The pay scale of the staff should not be more than the pay scale approved by the Council for the scheme. Any incentive or adhoc increase in pay over and above the scales approved by the Council shall be borne by the KVKS from their own resources.
- All staff of KVKS shall be borne on the establishment of Grantee (Host Organization) only. The administrative control over the staff employed under the scheme, therefore, shall vest in the Host Institution. The placement of staff working in the project after the termination of the project shall be the sole responsibility of Grantee without having any liability on the Council.
- The Council will not be liable to bear any expenditure on pension contribution and/or leave salary contribution or any other retirement benefit incurred or committed by the Grantee, in lieu of the CPF/GPF.

(b): At present, there is no proposal for any modification in the scheme “Strengthening of KVKS”.

(c): All the recent communications of ICAR are based on the approved guidelines and policies of the Government in respect of the scheme “Strengthening of KVKS”.
