

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3674  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
AGRI GROWTH CENTRES  
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) The number of Agri-Growth Centres working at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise ;
- (b) Whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of Agri-Growth Centres in the State ;
- (c) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto ;and
- (d) The time by which the approval is likely to be given ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) : The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is not implementing any scheme with the title `Agri-Growth Centres`.

The DAC is, however, implementing a scheme with the title `Agri-Clinics and Agri- Business Centres` (ACABCs). Training and handholding support is provided to agriculture graduates selected for coverage under the scheme. The trained graduates are expected to set up their agri-ventures in self-employment mode for providing fee-based extension and other services to farmers.

A total of 3771 agri-ventures have been set up by agriculture graduates trained under ACABCs scheme so far. Number of such agri-ventures set up in different States is at Annexure-I. Information on number of such agri-ventures set up in different districts of Gujarat is at Annexure-II.

(b) to (d): Gujarat Agro-Industries Corporation Ltd. (GAIC) had sent a proposal to National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad seeking financial support for imparting training to about 400 prospective agri-preneurs under ACABCs scheme. Implementation of this proposal requires signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between MANAGE and GAIC, which is pending with GAIC for signature. Training under this proposal will have to follow all the norms and guidelines of ACABCs scheme.