

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:93
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRES
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Village Knowledge Centres working at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal to Union Government to set up more Village Knowledge Centres in the State particularly in Jamnagar district; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which these centres are likely to be given approval by the union Government and to be set up?

Answer

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

(a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) is not implementing any scheme with the title `Village Knowledge Centres`.

However, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSCs for every 6 Census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of government and private services in rural areas. The Scheme is to be implemented in public private partnership mode.

Also, the DAC is 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 3904 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

(b) & (c) No formal proposal for sanctioning the CSCs Scheme in Gujarat has been received by DIT from the Government of Gujarat.

Also no proposal has been received by DAC from Government of Gujarat in respect of ACABCs scheme. However, 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 in Gujarat 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.