



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**13 Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)**

Shri **P.C. Gaddigoudar**, M.P. and Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-20), presented the Tenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) to Lok Sabha on 03.03.2020.

Some of the important recommendations of the Committee are as under-

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| <b>Budgetary Allocation <i>vis-a-vis</i> Proposed Allocation</b> | <b>The Committee while observing that out of total Allocation to the Department, 75 percent is spent on salaries and only 25 percent is utilized for Research Activities, are of the considered view that the provision of adequate funds for research is highly imperative. The Committee, therefore, have strongly recommended that allocation at RE Stage for the Department be adequately increased during the year 2020-21; for which the Department should assiduously pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance.<br/>(Recommendation Para No. 1)</b> |
| <b>Availability of Quality Seeds</b>                             | <b>The Committee while expressing their concern over availability of quality seeds to the farmers, have desired the Department to initiate extensive awareness campaigns and a country-wide programme for training of farmers in quality Seed production so that the farmers can produce and process the seeds themselves.<br/>(Recommendation Para No. 3)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| <p><b>Indigenous Breeds of Livestock</b></p>                             | <p>The Committee while observing that though the yield of milk from the foreign breeds of cows like Holstein Friesian is more as compared to indigenous breeds but the indigenous breeds of cattle are more resilient, possess high levels of immunity and their upkeep is easy as compared to imported breeds, have recommended the Department to develop breeds through IVF which can have qualities of both these breeds so as to increase the milk production in the Country without compromising on the quality.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 5)</p> |
| <p><b>Agricultural Extension</b></p>                                     | <p>The Committee while observing that out of total 717 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country, only 591 have Office Buildings, 495 have Farmers' Hostel and 438 have Staff Quarters, have recommended the Department to properly plan and utilize funds for infrastructure at KVKs and ensure that all the KVKs are functional at the earliest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 8)</p>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Functioning of KVKs and further development of Mobile Apps</b></p> | <p>While appreciating the development of Mobile Apps to disseminate knowledge on various aspects, the Committee are of the view that these are not an alternative to KVKs and hence have recommended that Sub-Centres of KVKs be opened in each Block of a District to maximise their outreach. The Committee have, however, also desired that to make the Mobile Apps more user friendly, these may also be made available in all Regional Languages along with Hindi and English.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 9)</p>                                   |