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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 5297

ANSWERED ON: 05.05.2008

MOU WITH AFGHANISTAN

SUGRIB SINGH

KISHANBHAI VESTABHAI PATEL

RAJAGOPAL LAGADAPATI

NAND KUMAR SAI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether India and Afghanistan have signed any MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of project of the said MoU taken up so far and the present status thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred by the India on the project so far?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MoU was signed between the Govt. of India and Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education on 28th August, 2005.

(c) Under the MoU, an Indian delegation comprising of five experts namely DDG (Engg.), ICAR; Director, NDRI, Karnal; Director, IARI, New Delhi; ADG (Horticulture), ICAR; and Dr. B.P. Patnaik MD, NSC, New Delhi was deputed to Afghanistan on 22-29 April, 2006 to develop a joint Biennial Work Plan between the two countries.

In consultation with the Agricultural officers of Afghanistan, the delegation identified capacity building, infrastructural development, exchange of germplasm and demonstration and pilot plant development, strengthening of laboratories in post harvest technology, diagnostics and Vaccinology, feed and fodder analysis and food quality and safety, and exchange of germplasm (indigenous local cattle, sheep and goat). Demonstration and pilot plants development at Afghanistan for livestock product processing, packaging and storage as major areas of the joint Biennial Work plan for cooperation in the field of Agricultural research and education between India and Afghanistan.

The above identified areas are proposed to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food, Govt. of Afghanistan under the technical advice of Indian experts and joint monitoring and evaluation by Indian and Afghan experts.

No projects have, however, been formulated as yet.

(d) Since no projects have been formulated so far, the question of expenditure incurred by India on projects does not arise.