

SKUAST delegation meets Amit Shah, Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of SKUAST-Jammu Teaching Association led by its President, Dr. Vikas Sharma met BJP National President, Amit Shah and Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh and submitted a memorandum of demands seeking up-gradation of SKUAST-Jammu to Central Agricultural University of Jammu.

National Executive Member of BJP, Dr. Nirmal Singh and State President BJP and Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore were also present.

Dr. Sharma apprised the BJP Chief that Jammu province include 10 districts and SKUAST-Jammu have limited staff and resources, which made it difficult to cater for the needs of farmers in far flung areas of Udhampur -Gool, Mahore, etc., Doda / Bhaderwah-

Chinta, Bhalessa etc. and Bani -Dandi Kulu, Basohli, Billawar etc., besides, upper reaches of Rajouri and Poonch Districts, which have suffered political and developmental alienation since independence.

Dr. Sharma further added that the farmers of these far flung areas are unable to get the benefit of latest advances in agricultural technologies due to the shortage of sanctioned staff and meager of financial resources provided to the State Agriculture University.

Executive Member of SKUAST-TAJ Committee, Dr. Poonam Parihaar apprised that there is no Central Agricultural University in the whole Northern India and Jammu division is the most suitable place for the establishment of the same as this region contains all the four agro climatic zones wherein different sets of crops / cash crops, veg-

etables and fruits are grown during the year. After getting Central Agriculture University Status, it will come under the direct control of Central Government and this will be a good confidence building measure for the people of Jammu, who have struggled a lot for this Agricultural University, he added.

After giving a patient hearing to the delegation, the BJP National President and Union Minister assured that their genuine demand will be considered and very soon their memorandum will be forwarded to the Central Agricultural Minister Radha Mohan Singh who will take up the matter further.

The deputation comprised of Dr. Vivek M. Arya - General Secretary, Dr. P.K. Rai - Joint Secretary, Dr. Devinder Sharma - Publicity Secretary and Dr. Akash Sharma.