

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:307

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000

PROSPECTS OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

(a) whether a study conducted by the Department of Economic Analysis and Policy of the Reserve Bank of India has portrayed a grim picture of the future prospects of agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether according to the study report, Indian agriculture has failed to meet the criterion of modernisation mainly due to lack of a new paradigm for policy making for development and investment;

(c) if so, the other points made in the report; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government on the RBI study report on agriculture sector?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to

(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS

(a) TO

(d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.307 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): A Research Study entitled `Modernising Indian Agriculture: Priority Tasks and Critical Policies` has been conducted by the Reserve Bank of India under the guidance of Prof. V.M. Rao, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and Dr P.D. Jeromi, Assistant Adviser in the Department of Economic Analysis and Policy, Reserve Bank of India. The study was published at the end of August, 2000.

The study has identified priority tasks and critical policies needed for the modernisation of the agriculture sector in the future. The study has pinpointed the measures needed for modernisation of the sector. It is also suggested the need for more investment in the sector. The study has not provided a grim picture on future prospects of the agriculture sector.

(c): Other points made in the study are

(i) operationalisation of Agro-Climatic Regional Planning,

(ii) conservation of land and water resources,

(iii) promotion of human development,

(iv) prioritization of investment,

(v) progressive linking of Self-Help Groups

(SHGs) with formal financial institutions,

(vi) enhancing coverage of agriculture insurance,

(vii) promotion of people oriented watershed development programmes,

(viii) greater investment in research and development, and (ix) development of non-farm sector.

(d): The Government of India announced National Policy on Agriculture in July, 2000. The recommendations made in the Reserve Bank of India Study have already been broadly covered in the National Agriculture Policy. It has since been decided to prepare an Action Plan for implementation of National Agriculture Policy in consultation with all concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India and the State Governments.