

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2053

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001

REVOLUTION IN AGRICULTURE

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to bring productivity and quality revolution in the agriculture sector to meet the international standard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the productivity and improve quality of agricultural products; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to establish agricultural clinics to provide services like soil health management water processing and resources management to the farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): International standards in respect of agriculture sector are framed by Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). In Government of India, mainly four Departments namely Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Export Inspection Council (EIC) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General Health Service (DGHS) in the Ministry of Health and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution are involved in fixing standards for different agricultural commodities. These Departments are also engaged in the task of harmonizing standards with international standards to facilitate exports to international markets and to regulate imports. Directorate of Marketing & Inspection is framing standards of agricultural commodities under the provisions of Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. So far grade standards for various 163 agricultural commodities have been framed. EIC is implementing the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 for the sound development of export trade from India through Quality Control and Pre-shipment Inspection. BIS has formulated more than 700 Indian Standards in agriculture sector including agricultural machinery out of which 10% are harmonized with International Standards. APEDA has initiated various steps to promote exports namely Backward Linkages, Integrated Programmes for production of quality and productivity of selected fruits and vegetables, establishment of post harvest management facilities, strengthening of information database in terms of quality and other requirements of importing countries, strengthening testing facilities, setting up of Agri-Exports.

(c): For maximizing, the production in the agriculture sector, the Department is providing assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under integrated crop production Schemes with a view to supplement their efforts. Under these schemes, there are certain components under which assistance is provided for identified implements including power tillers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation.

In order to improve the quality of agricultural products as many as 1345 units are functioning in various States which grade cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, fiber crops, fruit and vegetables, jaggery, tobacco, eggs etc. The value of commodities graded in these centres has been Rs.4389 crores during 1999-2000. The grading is undertaken through visual inspection by the graders of the Staff of Agricultural Produce Market Committees, who are regularly trained by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection through its training programmes in regional languages.

(d): Yes, Sir. A new Scheme 'Establishment of a Network of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres' has been formulated which seeks to extend opportunities to all eligible agriculture graduates to support agriculture development through economically viable ventures as stakeholders by providing the much needed capital for this purpose by way of bank finance on the one hand and entrepreneurship skill on the other, to set up information kiosks, tissue culture laboratories, soil testing laboratories, water testing laboratories, agri-clinics, agri-business centres and take up other related activities for which model schemes are being prepared by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium.