

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the date on which the National Agricultural Policy was implemented;
- (b) the main features of this policy;
- (c) the improvements made in Agricultural Policy since it was first implemented in the country upto October 2002; and
- (d) the details of the benefits of this policy in the country up to October 2002?

Answer

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

(a): The National Agriculture Policy was announced in July,2000.

(b): The National Policy on Agriculture seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalisation. Over the next two decades, it aims to attain:

- ? A growth rate in excess of 4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector.
- ? Growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conserves our soil, water and bio-diversity.
- ? Growth with equity, i.e. growth which is widespread across regions and farmers.
- ? Growth that is demand driven and caters to domestic markets and maximizes benefits from exports of agricultural products in the face of the challenges arising from economic liberalization and globalisation.
- ? Growth that is sustainable technologically, environmentally and economically.

(c)&(d): The Government have taken several initiatives for implementation of National Agriculture Policy and to accelerate the pace of development such as introduction of regionally differentiated approach, preparation of common guidelines for Watershed Development Programmes, creation of a Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs.200 crore, launching of a Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, launching scheme for on-farm water management in Eastern States, introduction of a Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, establishment of a Seed Bank, measures for increasing the availability of farm credit, introduction of a subsidy linked credit scheme for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, launching of a Market Information Network and promotion of value addition in agriculture through excise exemption and other interventions, decanalisation of export of agricultural commodities, expansion of futures and forward trading to cover all agricultural commodities, micro credit programme through Self Help Groups, establishment of Agri Export Zones etc. The Government has announced a National Policy on Cooperatives and National Policy on Seeds.