

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1004  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002  
RURAL MARKET FRIENDLY AGRICULTURE MARKETING POLICY  
KAILASH MEGHWAL

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate a village `Rural Market Friendly Agriculture Marketing Policy` for the development of marketing structure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether private sector participation in Agriculture-Marketing is being considered; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c) & (d): With a view to strengthening and developing agricultural marketing system in the country, an inter-Ministerial Task Force set up by this Ministry has submitted its Report on 28th June, 2002. In the Report, the Task Force has, inter-alia, recommended

- (i) to amend the State Agriculture Produce Marketing Regulation Act to allow private and cooperative sector investment in setting up of agricultural markets, to encourage direct marketing and contract farming and to bring about rationalization of market fee structure,
- (ii) making complementary investment by the State and Central Governments;
- (iii) providing subsidy to enable the private sector initiative to attain economic viability; and
- (iv) ensuring adequate credit flows to agricultural marketing activities. To attract promoting agencies to take up the infrastructure projects, the Central/State Governments need to additionally extend support in allocation of suitable land to set up markets, deregulation of areas where new markets will be set up from the purview of the APMC Act, fast approval for foreign technical assistance, import of equipment and for services like electricity, water, sewage, telephones etc. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Task Force at a National Conference held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 27.9.2002. A Standing Committee of State Ministers is also set up under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Agriculture) to evolve an action programme for the implementation of the reforms measures in the agricultural marketing sector.