

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:927
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
UNCERTAINTY IN AGRI-PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the factors which lead to uncertainty in agri-production in the country; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): Agricultural production in a Country depends on a number of factors such as rainfall, temperature, facilities for irrigation, incidence of pests and diseases, timely application of quality inputs, timely availability of credit at reasonable cost and marketing infrastructure.

(b): Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production in India is heavily influenced by rainfall. With a view to reducing uncertainty in agriculture and increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused attention, which inter-alia, include irrigation, agricultural credit, and marketing infrastructure. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.