

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4365

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007

PANEL ON WTO ISSUES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council sub-Committee on `Agriculture and Related Issues` has decided to form panel to look into World Trade Organization (WTO) issues and their impact on the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on recommendations of the working groups on crops, irrigation, marketing, animal husbandry and dry land farming?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The National Development Council (NDC)'s Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Related Issues has constituted a Sub-Group on `Issues Relating to Land and the Farmers, and the effects of Global issues on Indian Agriculture` under the Chairmanship of Dr. T. Haque, Chairman, CACP, Ministry of Agriculture.

The terms of reference of the sub-group are as follow:-

(i) Examine land-related issues such as declining size of operational holdings, land- leasing, tenurial security, corporate farming, contract farming, land-share companies etc. and suggest measures to promote optimum allocation of land resources.

(ii) Consider global issues including WTO Agreement on Agriculture, particularly, domestic support policies in India and elsewhere, intellectual property rights regime applicable to agriculture, bilateral trade agreements, regional trading blocks, etc. and suggest measures to mitigate any ill effects these might have on Indian agriculture.

(c): The recommendations of the Working Groups on region/crops specific productivity analysis, irrigation, marketing, animal husbandry and dryland farming have been presented in the meeting of the NDC's Sub-Committee held on 18.04.2007. However, the Sub-Committee has not finalized its report so far.