

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3629  
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FARMERS  
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

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

- (a) whether the National Commission for Farmers, constituted by the Government has indicated that marginal and small farmers intend to opt much profitable occupations instead of cultivation as it is not economically profitable;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for bio-conservation in the States like Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Sikkim; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): National Commission on Farmers indicated that, as per National Sample Survey Organization's survey, about 40% of farmers would like to quit farming if they had the option to do so. However, as such options are little, the Commission, in its Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers recommended several measures to enhance productivity and income of small farms and farmers and to diversify employment opportunities by strengthening production- processing-value addition marketing-consumer chain. The Commission also recommended several methods by which small and marginal farmers can gain efficiency and economy like cooperative farming, group farming by Self-Help Groups, small holders' estates, contract farming and Farmers' Companies etc. Government is implementing several programmes which, inter alia, include National Horticulture Mission, National Bamboo Mission, National Rainfed Area Authority, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Reform and Support to Agriculture Extension Service, National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to address the problems of the farmers.

(c)&(d): The existing National Agriculture Policy aims at growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conserves soil, water and bio-diversity. Government are implementing several programmes in this regard like National Project on Organic Farming, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.