

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1116

ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008

FARMER'S CLUBS

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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Farmers' Clubs set up and in operation in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the manner in which the banks are assisting these Farmers' Clubs;
- (c) the nature of difficulties being faced by such clubs in their operation; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to remove such difficulties?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) : Upto 30th September, 2008, a total of 31,800 Farmers' Clubs have been set up and are functional in the country. The year-wise cumulative details of Farmers' Clubs are as follows:

Year Cumulative No. of Farmers' Clubs

2005-06	17,976
2006-07	22,949
2007-08	28,226
2008-09	31,800
(Upto 30.09.2008)	

The State-wise details of functional Farmer's Clubs are at annex.

(b) : NABARD provides an assistance of Rs.10,000/- per Club per annum for a period of three years towards meeting their routine activities. The banks in turn, provide assistance to the Club for a period of three years and thereafter, it is expected that they would maintain the Club for another two years out of their own resources. NABARD also provides need based assistance for meeting "Non-Routine" activities. It has also set up a "Farmers Technology Transfer Fund (FTTF)" with a corpus of Rs.25 crore to be used for linking Farmers' Clubs with technology and markets.

(c) : Farmers' Clubs face difficulties such as lack of leadership, awareness, access to credit, information, technologies, market, self sustainability, etc.

(d) : NABARD has advised banks to conduct Awareness/Orientation Programmes for Club Members and avail assistance from FTTF so as to link the Farmers' Clubs with technologies and market. NABARD has also advised banks to explore the possibility of building up the corpus of Farmers' Clubs through membership fee, agency commission for insurance products, etc.