

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2036

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004

FARMERS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE

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

(a) the number of farmers living below poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes implemented by the Government for upliftment of farmers in the country; and

(c) the details of the funds released by the Government during each of the last three years and the number of farmers benefited thereby in the country, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a): The Planning Commission is engaged in estimation of poverty at the national and at the state level. However, estimation of poverty for farmers as a category is not done by the Planning Commission.

(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation implements a number of schemes for enhancement of agricultural production and productivity which, in turn, improves the well being of the farmers. The major schemes/ interventions are listed below:

- Macro Management of Agriculture consisting of 27 schemes for production of cereals and coarse cereals, sugarcane, jute, watershed development, horticulture and cooperation.
- On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India.
- Technology Mission on Cotton
- Technology Mission on Coconut.
- Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

In the Seeds sector, Transport Subsidy for the movement of seeds to the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Uttaranchal and Hill areas of West Bengal; Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds; Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank; Implementation of legislation on Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Protection are being implemented.

In the Plant Protection sector, Strengthening & Modernisation of Pest Management Approach in India and Strengthening & Modernisation of Plant Quarantine facilities in India are being implemented.

Under Risk Management, schemes like National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, Minimum Support Price, Market Intervention Scheme as safety nets for farmers are being implemented. More recently, Government have announced a number of initiatives to enhance credit availability for the agriculture sector.

In the field of marketing and storage and to address the problems of post harvest management, the Government is implementing schemes for Construction of Cold Storages, Rural Godowns and Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation.

To promote agricultural extension, the Department is implementing a number of schemes which, inter alia, include Kisan Call Centre; Mass media support to Agricultural Extension; Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri Business by agriculture graduates; Extension Support to Central Institutes of Directorate of extension.

Horticulture is another thrust areas identified for focused attention. The Department is implementing a scheme viz. Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture for the North Eastern Region including Sikkim, J&K, HP and Uttaranchal.

(c): The schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are meant to enhance agricultural production and productivity and assistance is given to farmers under various schemes.

The budget outlays and expenditure on plan schemes of the Department during the last three years are as under:

(in Rs.crore)

Year	BE	Expenditure
2001-02	1970.00	1777.92
2002-03	2167.00	1656.78
2003-04	2167.00	2055.95