

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3284
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Radhakrishna Committee has recommended setting up of an Agricultural Development Fund to finance special agricultural developmental programmes in the districts facing agrarian distress;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding other recommendations of the said Committee related to the development of agriculture;
- (d) whether the Government has identified the district facing agrarian distress; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b): The Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna has recommended that the unutilized portion of banks' obligation towards priority sector lending to agriculture should be fully transferred directly to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) or to the Central Government by issuing non-transferable Rural Development Bonds (RDBs) for financing agricultural development programmes. The Expert Group has also recommended the implementation of the programmes in 100 agriculturally less developed and distress districts identified for special agricultural development programmes.
- (c): The details are annexed.
- (d): No, Sir.
- (e): Does not arise.