

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1937
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
AGRICULTURE LAND IN BIHAR
Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of agriculture land in hectare in the State of Bihar and the area out of these actually being cultivated;
- (b) the contribution of agriculture in the State's GDP as compared to National GDP;
- (c) the number of persons engaged under the Agriculture Sector in the State;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the investments in agriculture sector in the State during 2004-05;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the promotion of agriculture in the State?

Answer

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

(a): The total agricultural land in the State of Bihar stood at 6.64 million hectares in 2001-02. Out of the total agricultural land, the cultivated land stood at 6.23 million hectares in the same year.

(b): The contribution of GDP (at 1993-94 prices) in agriculture (excluding allied sectors) in Bihar to the Gross State Domestic Product was 38.3% in 2002-03. For the country as a whole, the contribution of agriculture (excluding allied sectors) to GDP in 2002-03 was 20.0%.

(c): According to the data available from Directorate of Statistics & Evaluation, Government of Bihar, the total number of persons engaged in the agricultural sector in 2001 was 21.72 million, which included the categories of cultivators and agricultural labourers.

(d) to (f) : A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India` has been launched in March 2002 for implementation in all the districts of the states of Eastern/North-Eastern India, including Bihar. The objective of the scheme is to increase the production and productivity of not only Kharif and Rabi/Summer rice but also to facilitate the farmers to adopt diversified agricultural activities. The thrust of the scheme is on the exploitation of ground/surface water and its efficient utilization for increasing productivity in the eastern region resulting ultimately in fetching higher income and reduction in poverty of the farmers of the region. Besides, in order to increase investment in agriculture in the country, including agriculture in Bihar, the following areas have been identified for focused and priority attention :-

- ? Doubling rural credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rate and nursing cooperatives back to health.
- ? Special programme for dry land farming in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country, horticulture and water management.
- ? Stepping up public investment in agriculture research and extension, rural infrastructure, and irrigation.