

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:152

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FARMERS

Acharia Shri Basudeb;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission on Farmers in its report has suggested a comprehensive medium term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the details of the other main recommendations made by the Commission;
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and
- (e) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 152 DUE FOR REPLY ON 14-07-2009.

(a) to (e): The National Commission on Farmers (NCF), set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, in its Second Report submitted in August 2005 had suggested an elaborate medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country. The Commission submitted its Final Report in October, 2006 incorporating its main recommendations including the one relating to the necessity of a well-defined Food Security Policy. The major recommendations of the NCF are as follows:

- (i) Asset Reforms covering land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources.
- (ii) Farmer-friendly Support Services including setting up of Bio-Technology Regulatory Authority and National Agricultural Bio-security System, thrust on extension services including agro-metrology, training and knowledge connectivity, credit and insurance, assured and remunerative marketing opportunities, inputs and services.
- (iii) Curriculum reforms in the Agriculture Universities in order to promote entrepreneurship amongst the students.
- (iv) Approach towards Special Categories of Farming, increase in farmers' income through co-operative farming, contract farming, promoting small holders' estates in order to improve viability of small and marginal farmers and entrusting the Panchayat Raj Institutions with the responsibility for agriculture.
- (v) National Land Use Advisory Service to provide timely advice to farmers about optimum use of land, taking into account the climatic and market conditions.
- (vi) Setting up of Market Price Stabilization Fund and Agriculture Risk Fund and coverage of farmers under a comprehensive National Social Security Scheme.
- (vii) Creation of a National Food Security and Sovereignty Board and a well defined Food Security Policy.
- (viii) Rural non-farm livelihood initiatives to create non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas.

Based on the above mentioned report and consultations with the State Governments, the Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007. The Policy document was laid on the Table of the House on November 26, 2007.

Subsequently, an Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has finalized a Plan of Action for operationalisation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October 2008 to all the State Governments and the Central Ministries/ Departments concerned for follow-up action for its implementation.