

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:4  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY  
Viswanathan Shri P.;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) whether growing population is straining the agriculture sector both in terms of productivity and resources;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to enhance agricultural productivity commensurate with population growth including according priority to address the concerns of general deficiency of micronutrients in crop production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken for ensuring food security in the country through community participation and ecologically sustainable farming systems?

**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. 4 DUE FOR REPLY ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 2010.

(a) & (b): As per Population Census, India's population has increased from 846.4 million in 1991 to 1028.7 million in 2001. India's population is projected to be 1160.8 million in 2009 and 1326.1 million in 2020. As against this, the availability of land for cultivation is limited and the net area sown during the years 1991-2007 has in fact decreased from 143 million hectares to 140.30 million hectares. However the stress on land is taken care of by increase in the productivity of the various crops.

(c) & (d): Various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Crops Development Programme for rice and wheat under Macro Management of Agriculture, Micro-Irrigation are being implemented by the Government to increase agricultural productivity and production. Increased availability of concessional credit, improved seeds and fertilizers have also contributed to the rising agricultural productivity in the country. The Government has accorded high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through an integrated watershed development approach. In order to address the issue of soil health, including micro-nutrients the Government is promoting soil test-based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio- fertilizers and locally-available organic manures, etc. A new scheme, namely, National Project on Management on Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSF) has been introduced since 2008-09. Apart from this, under the National Food Security Mission and Integrated Crop Development Programme for rice and wheat under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme, micro-nutrients and other soil ameliorants are actively promoted to the farmers.

(e): To increase the production and availability of foodgrains such as wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced the National Food Security Mission in 2007. It aims to add to the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, i.e. 2011-12 bridging the yield gaps by productivity enhancement in the targeted districts. All the programmes of the Government in the agriculture sector encourage community participation and are oriented towards promoting ecologically sustainable farming systems.