

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:897

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

REVAMPING OF R & D PROGRAMME IN AGRICULTURE

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government is satisfied with the pace of agricultural research and development activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Union Government including revamping of R&D programme in agriculture sector;
- (c) whether the contribution of agriculture to the GDP has declined during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The production and productivity of food grains, vegetables and fruits, livestock, poultry and fish have increased several folds over the years. A record production of 233 million tones of food grains, 101 million tones of milk and 7.6 million tones of fish during the year 2008-09 has been achieved. The newly developed varieties and hybrids have clearly indicated the superiority/increase in yield ranging from 12 to 45% in the frontline demonstration of various crops conducted in different regions of the country.

The ICAR has taken up a World Bank funded mega project titled 'National Agricultural Innovation Project' wherein the agricultural innovations besides research are also embedded into the research programmes. Some of these issues are being addressed through Production to Consumption Research, (Agricultural Value Chains) as also the Sustainable Rural Livelihood Security.

(c) & (d): The contribution of agriculture to GDP has marginally declined from 19.06% in the year 2005-06 to 18.5% in the year 2006-07, 18.11% in the year 2007-08 and 17.47% in the year 2008-09.

The Government of India has launched a major flagship project i.e. National Food Security Mission with an objective to enhance production of rice, wheat and pulses by an additional 20 million tones by the end of current plant period. In addition a National Horticultural Mission has also been launched to increase production of fruits and vegetable for meeting the growing demand of our population. For enhancing investment in agriculture a national scheme known as Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an allocation of Rs.25000 crore for XI plan period has also been launched.