

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:280

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

ASSISTANCE TO SURPLUS FOODGRAIN PRODUCING STATES

Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to assist the surplus foodgrains producing States like Punjab to help them sustain the high yielding production and output standards to ensure food security in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received proposals for declaring surplus foodgrains producing States as `Special Agriculture Zones` including from the State of Punjab; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 280 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16TH MARCH, 2010.

(a) & (b): Government of India has been supporting the efforts of the states including Punjab through several Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) for enhancing food grain production. Based on the specific requirements of the states, assistance is provided through these schemes for improved seed production and distribution, nutrients, plant protection chemicals, farm machinery etc. Capacity building of farmers and transfer of technology to farmers' fields is also ensured through demonstrations and farmers field schools.

(c) & (d): Government has received some references for creation of Special Agriculture Zones in the country. However, no specific proposal for declaring surplus foodgrains producing states as `Special Agriculture Zones` including from the State of Punjab has been received by the Government.