

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2997
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010
TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE IN AGRICULTURE
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether food security aspect focuses on sharing technological expertise and promotion of private sector extension in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this direction; and
- (c) the views of the various stakeholders in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): In order to provide requisite technology and extension support to the farmers to improve agricultural production and productivity and ensuring food security, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reporms` launched in 2005-06 is currently in operation in 591 districts of the country. The scheme promotes multi-agency extension strategies and has provision for spending minimum 10% of allocations for district level recurring activities in Public-Private- Partnership (PPP) mode. Various Non-Governmental Agencies - Agri-preneurs; Non- Governmental Organizations; Farmer Organizations; Farmer Cooperatives; Input dealers and Private Sector are also eligible to get a service charge of a maximum of 10% of the cost of training/extension activity carried out through them.

(c): There is a positive response to this initiative both from the State Government and the Non-Governmental/Private agencies to this initiative. As a consequence more than 580 NGOs/private partners are currently involved in the implementation of extension activities under the scheme in 591 districts of the country.