

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3129

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

SMALL FARM MANAGEMENT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan/proposal for giving impetus to small farm management to revitalise the country's agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to integrate frontier science with traditional agricultural practices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has identified major challenges of science and technology in the agriculture sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage small farm management?

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) to (g): In the scenario of continuous fragmentation of operational land holding size, revolution in small farm management is essential to revitalize the country's agriculture. The frontier science has helped in increasing the production of wheat and rice through green revolution. However, the impact of green revolution has also resulted into over exploitation of resources i.e. soil, water, bio-diversity and ecosystem. The traditional agriculture was self re- generative and focused on the basic need of the villages with food, fodder, manure, fuel, fibre, tool/implements with eco-friendliness and protection of bio-diversity. Therefore, blending of indigenous technologies with frontier science could help in conservation of bio-diversity, soil health, optimum use of water resources and a balance eco-system. Continuous research on major challenges of agriculture is on by ICAR such as development of new varieties in the context of climate change etc.

In pursuance to the recommendations of National Commission on Farmers, the Government has taken various steps such as setting up of farm schools on the field of achiever farmers; recognition to best farmers through awards at block, district and state level; involvement of the farmers in programme formulations and implementation through Farmer Advisory Committees at block level and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level with bottom-up approach instead of ongoing top-down approach; technology transfer through Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs)/Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) rather than individual farmers and capacity building of these groups.