

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
PROMOTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMING
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage commercial and contract farming especially in horticulture crops for the benefit of the farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain corporate houses and multinational companies have shown keen interest in the field;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote agriculture based industry in the country;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 344 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH APRIL, 2010.

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Different schemes/programmes of Government of India, which include National Horticulture Mission, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttrakhand, Micro Irrigation, National Bamboo Mission, Schemes of National Horticulture Board etc. provide for promotion of commercial farming, especially in horticultural crops. Moreover, the Model APMC Act circulated by the Ministry of Agriculture to States and Union Territories, with a request to adopt the same, provides for contract farming with adequate safeguards to protect interest of farmers.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): Government welcomes interest in such activities, which have potential to increase income of farmers, with adequate safeguards to protect their interests.

(e): Yes, Madam.

(f): Several schemes of government support promotion of agriculture based industry such as Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries to promote food processing industries including Mega Food Park scheme; Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Rejuvenation, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of the Coir Industry (RMTU) under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.