

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3884
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
ALTERNATIVE POLICY FOR AGRICULTURE
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evolved any policy related alternative to tackle the lurking agrarian crisis in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the measures taken by the Government to tackle drought and ensure food security have failed to achieve the desired results; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): For revitalization of agricultural sector, improvement in production and productivity, stepping up the growth rates of the sectors, enhancement of the incomes of the farmers, etc., the Government has already taken many initiatives like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses, etc.

The Government has also announced a National Policy for Farmers in 2007, incorporating many of the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers that are aimed at the revival of the Indian agriculture. Further, in pursuance of an announcement contained in the address by her Excellency, the President of India regarding urgent steps towards 'Second Green Revolution', following additional proposals have been made in the Union Budget 2010-11 to give fillip to the agricultural sector:

1. Rs.400 crore provided to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa.
2. Rs.300 crore provided to organize 60,000 'pulses and oil seed villages' in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting, watershed management and soil health, to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas.
3. Rs.200 crore provided for sustaining the gains already made in the green revolution areas through conservation farming, which involves concurrent attention to soil health, water conservation and preservation of biodiversity.
4. Banks have been consistently meeting the targets set for agriculture credit flow in the past few years. For the year 2010-11, the target has been set at Rs.3,75,000 crore.
5. In view of the recent drought in some States and the severe flood in some other parts of the country, the period for repayment of the loan amount by farmers extended by six months from December 31, 2009 to June 30, 2010 under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers.
6. Incentive of additional one per cent interest subvention to farmers who repay short-term crop loans as per schedule, increased to 2% for 2010-11.

All the above initiatives are like to have desired result of food security as evidenced by the increased level of procurement of wheat and rice in recent years for the Central pool.