

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3894
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
CONDITIONS OF FARMERS
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps for the development of the agriculture sector and to improve the condition of the farmers during the 11th Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 (c): The 11th Five Year Plan (FYP), which is founded on the strategy of inclusive growth, has set a growth target of 4% per annum in agricultural Gross Domestic Product. A multipronged approach has been adopted towards this end, including major expansion in the programmes for irrigation and water management. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched to assist the States in development and implementation of district level agricultural plans, based on local agro-climatic conditions in a decentralized manner. As a step towards food security, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched during the 11th FYP.

In addition to the direct budgetary support of Rs.41577 crore, the Government has initiated measures to incentivize State Governments to increase investment in agriculture sector by provision of Rs.25000 crore Additional Central Assistance to States over the plan period through the RKVY. Moreover, the plan outlay of the Ministry of Rural Development for Natural Resource Management and support to the States for setting up an efficient Land Administration System and investments in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Backward Region Grant Fund, and Rural Infrastructure under Bharat Nirman would also strengthen the growth impulse in the agriculture sector.

The Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007 with the objective to improve the economic viability of farming and also to enhance production and productivity. Many of provisions of the NPF are being operationalised through various schemes and programmes which are being implemented by different Central Government departments and ministries. For the operationalization of the remaining provisions of the Policy, an action plan has been finalized and circulated to the ministries and departments concerned, as well as to all states and UTs for necessary follow up action. An inter-ministerial committee has also been constituted to monitor the progress of the plan of action for the operationalization of the NPF.

Many of the Schemes/Programmes being implemented by different Departments and Ministries during the 11th FYP period are in keeping with the provisions of National Policy for Farmers 2007. These include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Bamboo Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation Schemes, Watershed Development Programme, Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management and Macro Management of Agriculture. These Schemes/Programmes were started or continued during the 11th FYP.

The Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers announced by the Government in the Union Budget 2008-09 has been successfully implemented. The overdue debt of about 3 crore small and marginal farmers has been waived and about 68 lakh farmers have been granted debt relief.

Since Kharif 2006-07, farmers are getting crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs.3 lakh at 7% rate of interest and the Government of India and State Governments are providing necessary interest subvention to NABARD and Banks for this purpose. The Union Budget 2010-11 has provided for giving interest subvention @2% for 2010-11 for timely repayment.