

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6139  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO GRAM PANCHAYATS  
Shantha J.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has suggested to extend greater technical support to Gram Panchayats and attaching the Agricultural Universities with Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to formulate structural programmes for achieving such objectives?

**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 (c): The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) has recommended training of Panchayat members in integrated pest management, integrated nutrient supply, and scientific water management, as well as in new technologies such as Biotechnology and ICT. However, it has not specifically mentioned about attaching the Agricultural Universities with Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Commission also recommended that support from village Panchayats should be sought in establishing the Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the context of Knowledge Connectivity.

Based on the recommendations of the Commission and based on the consultations with the State Governments as well as the Central Ministries/Departments concerned, the Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007. The NPF, 2007 envisages Government of India's support to state governments for devolution of functions and functionaries for empowering the Panchayats in order to implement various schemes and programmes at the grass roots level. It also envisages steps to strengthen and accord centrality to Panchayats in addressing the problems of farmers.

Regular training is being imparted to farmers and persons belonging to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the above mentioned areas and technologies by the 569 Krishi Vigyan Kendras established in different districts in the country. The involvement of PRIs at various levels is an integral part of the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme. Further, the training and exposure visits of extension functionaries belonging to governmental and non-governmental sector including PRIs is given due importance. The Scheme guidelines also suggest that minimum 10% allocations on recurring activities are to be used through non-governmental sector including PRIs.