

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6274  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
SMALL FARMERS AGRICULTURE BUSINESS CONSORTIUM  
Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) the functions assigned to Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC);
- (b) whether the Government has set up SFAC in various States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of projects/schemes implemented and funds sanctioned under SFAC, State- wise;
- (e) the details of the physical achievements/progress made so far under SFAC, State-wise;
- (f) whether SFAC has not been able to make much impact;
- (g) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of SFAC to make it more effective; and
- (h) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**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): The functions of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) is to extend Venture Capital (VC) assistance where bank term loan/working capital is provided for setting up viable agri-business projects. SFAC implements the scheme in close association with nationalized banks. It also provides assistance for project development facilities for preparation of detailed project report.
- (b) & (c): Yes, Madam. The central government provides assistance to the State Governments for setting up State Level SFAC's. List of State level SFAC in various States is at Annexure-I.
- (d): The State wise details of projects implemented and venture capital assistance sanctioned during 2009-10 is at Annexure-II.
- (e): The State wise detail of physical achievements made from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is at Annexure-III.
- (f): The report of All-India evaluation of the scheme by NABARD Consultancy Services (P) Ltd. (Nabcons) submitted in 2008, states that availability of venture capital assistance under the scheme had greatly facilitated the setting up of the assisted units and had effectively bridged the gap in funding. The evaluation report further states that support under the project provided to the units had certainly resulted in channelization of private investment into agri-business sector, which is one of the key objectives of the scheme.
- (g) & (h): Question does not arise in view of above. However the performance of SFAC is reviewed regularly to make it more effective.