

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:405
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had introduced the National Agriculture Policy for farmers for the development of the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its aims and objectives; and
- (c) the details of the follow-up action taken on the implementation of the policy?

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): Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan 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. Subsequently, an Inter-Ministerial Committee finalized a Plan of Action for Operationalisation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October 2008 to all the State Governments and the central Ministries /Departments concerned for necessary action. The Plan of Action identifies 201 further steps to be taken by different Departments/ organisations and State Governments. The implementation of the Policy is being reviewed periodically by another Inter-Ministerial Committee. The aim of the Policy is to stimulate attitudes and actions which should result in assessing agricultural progress in terms of improvement in the income of farm families, not only to meet their consumption requirements but also to enhance their capacity to invest in farm related activities.

The major goals of the National Policy for Farmers are:

- (a) To improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers and to ensure that agricultural progress is measured by advances made in this income.
- (b) To protect and improve land, water, bio-diversity and genetic resources essential for sustained increase in the productivity, profitability and stability of major farming systems by creating an economic stake in conservation.
- (c) To develop support services including provision for seeds, irrigation, power, machinery and implements, fertilizers and credit at affordable prices in adequate quantity for farmers.
- (d) To strengthen the bio-security of crops, farm animals, fish and forest trees for safeguarding the livelihood and income security of farmer families and the health and trade security of the nation.
- (e) To provide appropriate price and trade policy mechanisms to enhance farmers' income.
- (f) To provide for suitable risk management measures for adequate and timely compensation to farmers.
- (g) To complete the unfinished agenda in land reforms and to initiate comprehensive asset and aquarian reforms.
- (h) To mainstream the human and gender dimension in all farm policies and programmes.
- (i) To pay explicit attention to sustainable rural livelihoods.
- (j) To foster community-centred food, water and energy security systems in rural India and to ensure nutrition security at the level of every child, woman and man.
- (k) To introduce measures which can help attract and retain youths in farming and processing of farm products for higher value addition by making it intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding.
- (l) To make India a global outsourcing hub in the production and supply of the inputs needed for sustainable agriculture, products and processes developed through biotechnology and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

(m) To restructure the agricultural curriculum and pedagogic methodologies for enabling every farm and home science graduate to become an entrepreneur and to make agricultural education gender sensitive.

(n) To develop and introduce a social security system for farmers.

(o) To provide appropriate opportunities in adequate measure for non-farm employment for the farm households.