

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:132

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010

REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram; Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

(a) whether decline in production and productivity, impact of climate change, unabated suicide by farmers, debt trap and host of other problems have dented the agriculture sector in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revisit the agriculture sector afresh and initiate structural reforms, including amendments in the Agricultural Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 132 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD AUGUST, 2010.

(a) to (d): The Government has initiated several measures such as Rehabilitation Package in 31 suicide-prone districts, Agricultural Debt Waiver & Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme benefiting 3.69 crore farmers, etc. to address the issue of farmers' suicide due to agrarian reasons and debt burden. Several production and productivity enhancing schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses, etc., have resulted in a trend of increased production and productivity during the last 6 years except for the last year (2009-10), which witnessed one of the most severe droughts of all times. Suicides by farmers have shown a declining trend during the last three years.

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 rejuvenation of agriculture and allied sectors.

Several initiatives such as providing Rs. 400 crore to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa; providing Rs. 300 crore to organise 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; allocation of Rs.200 crore for launching climate resilient agriculture initiative of sustaining the gains already made in the green revolution areas through conservation farming; and incentive of additional one per cent interest subvention to farmers who repay short-term crop loans as per schedule have been announced in the Union Budget 2010-11 to give fillip to the agricultural sector.

The Government is adequately geared to address the challenges being faced by Indian agriculture in general and the Indian farmers in particular.