

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1484  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010  
CONCESSION FOR SMALL FARMERS  
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) the percentage of farmers in the country who owns less than 1 acre of agriculture land and solely dependent on agriculture for earning their living;
- (b) whether the Government provides fertilisers and seeds to these small farmers at concessional rates;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other measures being taken to assist such farmers?

**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): As per the results of latest Agriculture Census 2005-06, a total of 44.63 percent operational holdings at All India level (excluding Jharkhand) had operated area below 0.50 hectare (0.50 hectare = 1.24 acre).

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c): The farmers irrespective of their status are provided chemical fertilizers at subsidized MRPs, which are much lower than the delivered cost of fertilizers at the farm- gate level. Under the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility, financial assistance up to Rs.500/- per hectare is provided for promotion of organic manure, soil amendment and micro-nutrients.

The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds" on All India basis from the year 2005-06 with the objective of developing and strengthening existing infrastructure for production and distribution of certified/quality seeds to farmers, which include small farmers also. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for production/distribution of seeds and hybrid rice seeds on subsidized rates.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The Government provides financial incentives, grants, concessions to the farmers, with special emphasis on holdings of marginal farmers, through various schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Horticulture for the North Eastern States.

To create awareness about agricultural technologies, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) organize large number of extension activities like kisan melas/kisan goshtis, awareness camps, publication of extension literature and radio and TV talks.