

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3861
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the application of science and technology is being promoted in agriculture;
- (b) if so, whether such application has enhanced the quality and quantity of agriculture production;and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a) Yes Madam, several efforts are underway to promote application of modern science and technology in agriculture research, like modern biotechnology. Efforts are then made to take successful research efforts and technologies to the farmers. Some of these technologies include: laser leveler, drip and sprinkler irrigation, resource conserving technologies, hybrid seeds, Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, Artificial Inseminations, in cows and seed treatment and so on.
- (b) It is estimated that contribution of research to growth in output varies from 8.95 to 26.4%, and that internal rate of return to investment in agricultural R&D is around 40%.
- (c) The application of science and technology has enhanced the overall production of food grains, horticulture crops, vegetables, livestock, poultry and fisheries. Food grains production has increased almost four fold during last six decades and the production of horticultural crops from 96.56 million tones in 1991-92 to 214.72 million tones in 2008-09. In the livestock sector milk and egg production has increased six and 27 times respectively since 1950-51. Meat production increased 21 per cent during the last eight years. There has also been an increase of mechanization in agriculture with commercialization and adoption of technologies such as straw reaper with trailer, pipe less drainage technology, insect traps, mini dal mills, thresher-cum-pearler for millets etc.