

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any plan/programme for the use of bio-technology and other new technological developments in the field of Agriculture to revolutionise the productivity in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) & (b): The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 acknowledges that new technologies which can help enhance productivity per unit of land and water are needed for overcoming the prevailing technology fatigue. Frontier technologies like biotechnology, Information & Communication Technology, space applications and nano-technology provide opportunities for improving productivity on a sustainable basis.

The National Biotechnology Development Strategy (NBDS) was approved by the Union Government in 2007 after a nationwide consultation process with multiple stakeholders. The Department of Biotechnology is undertaking Research & Development (R&D) in biotechnology including agricultural biotechnology. The focus of R & D in agriculture is on three main staple crops viz. rice, wheat & Maize, followed by pearl millet, groundnut, pigeonpea and cassava.