

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4474

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010

INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL LAND

Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the investment made for development of agricultural land in various hilly and other States of the country including Himachal Pradesh in the last couple of years is insufficient;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote investment for the development of agricultural land during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;
- (d) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended to provide one acre of land to each landless farmer;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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): With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation, maintain balance in different types of land uses and to improve the productivity of land, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes/Schemes, namely;

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA),

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR) and

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing area development programmes on watershed basis namely; Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP). These three programmes have now been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009. Substantial investments have been made under these programmes for development of land which also include Himachal Pradesh. The details of investments made in the last three years is given in Annexure-I.

(c): Ministry of Rural Development under IWMP is targeting to cover 22.65 million ha. during the XI Plan with an outlay of Rs. 15,359.46 crores. So far, 2157 projects covering an area of 10.24 million ha. have been sanctioned under IWMP. Ministry of Agriculture is also targeting a coverage of 3 million ha. under Watershed development programmes with an investment of about Rs. 3000 crores during the XI Plan and in the first three years, about 1.83 million ha. has been developed.

(d) to (f): The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) had recommended provision of one acre of land per landless labour household, wherever feasible. The National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which was approved by the Government based on recommendations of NCF, provides for asset reforms to ensure that every farmer household in villages possesses and /or has access to productive assets like land, live stock, fish pond, homestead farm and / or income through an enterprise or market driven skills so that the household income is increased substantially on a sustainable basis which, in turn, would ensure nutrition and livelihood security and their education and health requirements. State Governments have been advised from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land and Bhoodan land to the eligible poor.