

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:167
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
PROBLEMS FACED BY FARMERS
Thakor Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of various problems being faced by farmers including adverse weather conditions, depleting water table and credit at higher interest rates in the agriculture sector;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme/action plan to provide assistance to the farmers and achieve agricultural growth; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 167 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH MARCH, 2011.

(a) to (d): The National Policy for Farmers (NPF) 2007 addresses various problems being faced by farmers in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, including those relating to adverse weather conditions, depleting water table and availability of credit to farmers. Provisions of NPF are being implemented through various ongoing programmes and schemes of Government to revitalize agriculture & allied sector and to address problems of farmers.

To mitigate problems faced by farmers due to adverse weather conditions, apart from the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), which is being implemented in 25 States and 2 Union Territories, a modified NAIS to make it more farmer friendly is being implemented on pilot basis in 34 selected districts in Rabi 2010-11. A Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme is also being implemented to provide insurance coverage for crop losses suffered by farmers due to adverse weather conditions. In the event of natural calamities, the State Governments concerned can provide necessary assistance to affected farmers under the State Disaster Response Fund. If necessary, Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government from the National Disaster Response Fund. Further, farmers are advised on the basis of inputs from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agriculture Universities to take alternate crops in areas affected by natural calamities. If required, seeds for alternate crops and fertilizers are made available to facilitate alternate crop programme.

In order to improve water use efficiency, the Government has been promoting Micro Irrigation. Moreover, watershed development, farm ponds and water harvesting structures are being promoted under different schemes to augment water availability.

The Government has announced in the Budget for 2011-12 proposal of increasing credit flow to the farmers to Rs.4,75,000 in 2011-12 and enhancing the interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs.3,00,000/- from 2 to 3 percent reducing the effective rate of interest for farmers repaying their crop loan on time to 4 percent. In order to address problem of indebtedness of farmers, the Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers involving estimated amount of Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

The Minimum Support Prices of major crops have also been increased in the range of 42% to 84% in case of cereals and up to 114% in case of pulses & 104% in case of oilseeds during 2005-06 to 2010-11 for the benefit of farmers.