

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:265
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE
Dashmuni Deepa ;Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for expanding cooperation in the agriculture sector at bilateral and multilateral levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such agreements signed during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the details of the benefits likely to accrue to the agriculture sector from such agreements?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 265 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH MARCH, 2011.

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Ministry of Agriculture has taken steps for expanding cooperation in the Agriculture sector by fostering mutually beneficial partnerships with other countries of the world in a multilateral as well as bilateral format. Broad based and inclusive multilateral cooperation is pursued through international organizations such as Food & Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme etc. On a bilateral basis, during the last three years & current year (upto February, 2011), 20 Agreements/MoUs have been signed. Details of these agreements are annexed.

(c): Likely benefits accruing from such agreements/MoUs are in the nature of capacity building, knowledge exchange through visits of scientists and technicians, exchange of genetic resources, etc. that aid in development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity at Farmers' field. Such cooperation also facilitates creation of opportunities for trade in agricultural commodities. India's strategic interests are also served through partnerships with other countries.