

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1967
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
TASK FORCE ON RICE PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any task force to increase the productivity of foodgrain including rice in the country particularly in Eastern India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the work done and progress made by the said task so far in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) to (c): An Inter ministerial task force was constituted in December 2009 under the chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture) to make short-term and medium - term recommendations on efficient management of water, power and other inputs to maximize agricultural production on a sustainable basis including that of the Eastern India.

The main objectives set for the task force were

- (i) assessing the current scenario of water resources development utilization and management for foodgrain including rice production in the country with reference to North-Western and Eastern India.
- (ii) Developing short, medium and long term action plan for sustainable food security in the country keeping in the mind the adequate infrastructure relating to water, power, marketing, storage and rural connectivity in potential Eastern and North - Eastern regions.

The report of the task force was submitted in the month of June, 2010. The major recommendation of task force was for promoting efficiency in water management and encouraging innovative precision farming practices in consultation with the State Governments. It made specific recommendations for improving the rice productivity in the Eastern States through development of appropriate infrastructure with a view to stabilize rice based cropping system in the Eastern States.

In order to harness the Potential of Eastern Indian Plains for enhancing its Agricultural Production, a programme- "Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India" under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) announced in the Union 2010-11 with an allocation of Rs.400 crores. It was implemented during the year in the States of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The objective of the new initiative is to increase the productivity of rice based cropping system by intensive cultivation through promotion of recommended agriculture technology and package of practices by addressing the underlying constraints of different agro climatic sub regions. This initiative has been continued in 2011-12 as well with a further allocation of Rs.400 Crores.