

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2274

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009

PROBLEMS OF FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to address the problems being faced by the farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has laid down any norms for considering the issues concerning the farmers under the said mechanism; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): The Indian farmers face myriad problems ranging from vagaries of weather, resource availability, input supply, capital/credit availability, marketing etc. In order to address these problems, the Government is implementing a number of schemes and programmes, notable among them being the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Extension programmes through the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, Micro Irrigation Scheme, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, Comprehensive Credit Package and Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme.

From time to time, the Government also constitutes Commissions/Committees to study the various issues relating to the farm sector including the problems faced by the farmers and suggest suitable measures. For example, a National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan was constituted based on whose main recommendations, the Government has announced the National Policy for Farmers in 2007.

In addition, the Government has set up a number of subordinate and attached offices, autonomous bodies, public sector undertakings, institutions in the fields of cooperation, credit, research and development spread throughout the country, which are also engaged in addressing the problems faced by the farmers. The State Governments have been supplementing these efforts with their own initiatives.

Besides this, in order to advise the farmers on the day-to-day issues including their problems, the Kisan Call Centres Scheme has been put in place. Kisan Knowledge Management System (KKMS) is being developed to provide consistent and quick replies to the queries of farmers with an escalation matrix in case of unresolved issues.