

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2371
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
IRRIGATION AND SEED DEVELOPMENT
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to pay special focus on irrigation and seed development to address the bottlenecks in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has also urged the State Governments to draw up special programmes for wheat, rice and pulses;
- (d) whether the Union Government has prepared any detailed plan of action in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the Central assistance provided or proposed to be provided to each State in this regard during each of the last three years?

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): Yes, Madam. The seed production and seed availability in States is regularly reviewed by the Union Government. Increase in seed production to achieve the required Seed Replacement Rate in various crops as per National Seed Plan is repeatedly emphasized, particularly in Zonal Seed Review Meetings and National Conference organized before each ensuing agricultural season. Further, the Government of India has been providing assistance to States under various schemes for seed related activities.

As regards irrigation, States have been requested to improve water use efficiency and water conservation. Further, under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme, loan assistance and grants are given to States to complete major/medium and minor irrigation projects.

(c) to (f): In view of the resolution as adopted by the National Development Council (NDC) to launch a Food Security Mission in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million tones, 8 million tones and 2 million tones, respectively by the end of XI Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called 'National Food Security Mission' has been launched from Rabi, 2007-08 with three major components viz. NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses. At the district and state levels, action plans are approved by the district level executive committee and state level executive committee respectively. At the national level, the state action plan is approved by the national level Executive Committee which, in turn, seeks the approval of the apex body i.e. General Council. State-wise details of Central assistance provided during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is annexed.