

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3205
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to evolve a policy for the harmonious development of the agriculture sector vis-a-vis the other core sectors of the economy like industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to secure the interest of agricultural sector in a rapidly industrializing economy?

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) to (c): The Government has announced the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007 based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. The Policy document took note of the variation in the growth rate achieved in the farm sector during the 10th Five Year Plan vis-à-vis the non-farm sector. Therefore, one of the major goals announced in the NPF is to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers and to ensure that agricultural progress is measured by advances made in this income. The NPF mentions various initiatives for the revitalization of agricultural sector, improvement in production and productivity, stepping up the growth rates of the agricultural and allied sectors, enhancement of the incomes of the farmers, etc.

Subsequently, an Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation finalized a Plan of Action for operationalization of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October, 2008 to all the State Governments and the central Ministries/Departments concerned for necessary action.

Besides this, the Government has also taken many other initiatives in this direction like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses, etc.