

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4277
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
NATIONAL POLICY FOR FARMERS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has launched a National Policy for Farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to implement the Policy; and
- (c) the steps taken to attract and retain the youth in farming under the said Policy?

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): Yes, Madam. The Government has announced the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Prof. M. Swaminathan. The Policy document was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament in November, 2007. 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. The major policy goals and salient provisions/ features of the NPF, 2007 are as follows:

- (i) Improve the economic viability of farming by substantially improving the net income of farmers.
- (ii) Asset Reforms covering land, water, livestock, fisheries, bio-resources and animal genetic resources.
- (iii) Develop support services like science & technology; agricultural bio-security; agro-meteorology; climate change; inputs and services like seeds, soil health, pesticides, implements, feed etc.; credit and insurance; cooperatives; extension, training and knowledge connectivity; social security; agricultural prices, marketing and trade; integration with processing and value chain; and curriculum reform.
- (iv) Measures aimed at special categories of farmers, special categories of farming and special regions.
- (v) Popularization of methods for achieving economies of scale by small and marginal farmers to enhance yield and income.
- (vi) Introduce measures to attract and retain youth in farming and processing of farm products.
- (vii) Other policy measures for enhancing of food security, creation of rural non- farm employment, etc.

As mentioned above, one of the major policy goals of NPF, 2007 is to introduce measures which can help attract and retain youths in farming. Towards this end, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are providing training and skill development to the youth in different aspects of agriculture and allied activities. The scheme "Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri Business Centres by Agricultural Graduates" is promoting self-employment among agricultural graduates. Further, for revitalization of agriculture and improve the income and well-being of the farmers, the Government has taken many initiatives like substantial increase in the minimum support prices of important agricultural crops, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses, etc. All the above measures are expected to raise the farm incomes substantially, thereby making agriculture an attractive option for the youth.