

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2218
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011
FARMERS PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure enhanced participation of the farmers in the economic development of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and other credit and fiscal related measures taken to emancipate the farmers from debt burden?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b): Economic development of any country depends on growth of all its important sectors including the growth of agriculture and allied sectors. In the case of Indian economy, agriculture and allied sectors contribute about 14 per cent of GDP, hence growth of this sector continues to be critical for the overall performance of the economy. Enhanced participation of the farmers is therefore inevitable. Government has taken many initiatives for revitalization of the agriculture sector which includes, improvement in farm production and productivity and enhancement of income of farmers. The notable initiatives include launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and National Food Security Mission, with outlays of Rs.25000 crores and Rs.4882.48 crores, respectively, during 11th Plan period. In addition, schemes like National Horticulture Mission, Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms, Micro Irrigation, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, etc. have been continued from 10th Plan. In recent years, Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops have been increased substantially to make farming more remunerative. These measures have resulted in a trend of increased production and productivity of various crops. As per the 4th advance estimates, a record foodgrains production of 241.56 million tonnes was achieved in 2010-11. Further, Government has taken measures, such as, Rehabilitation Package of Rs. 16978.69 crores in 31 suicide-prone districts in four states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and Agricultural Debt Waiver & Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme benefiting 3.69 crore farmers involving debt waiver and debt relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, to address the issue of farmers' suicide due to agrarian reasons and debt burden. In addition, Union Budget 2011-12 has announced fresh initiatives like bringing Green Revolution to Eastern Region, Rainfed Area Development Programme, Integrated Development of 60,000 pulses villages in rainfed areas, Initiative on Vegetable Clusters, Nutri-cereals, National Mission for Protein Supplements, and Accelerated Fodder Development Programme and short term crop loans to farmers at 7 per cent interest with 3 per cent interest subvention, to enable the agriculture sector play its desired role in economic growth and development.