

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4352
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
OPENING UP OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
Toppo Shri Joseph

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open up the agriculture sector to the corporate sector; and
- (b) if so, the extent to which the agriculture sector and the farmers community are likely to be benefited from this move?

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): No, Madam. However, the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 recognizes the need for setting up Farmers' companies to benefit the small and marginal farmers for gaining efficiency and economies of scale in their farming operations. At the same time NPF, 2007 also suggests promotion of cooperative farming and service cooperatives, group farming by self help groups, small holders' estates, contract farming and state farms for the same objective in the interest of small and marginal farmers.