

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1415
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
SUBSIDY TO FARMERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers in the country are being given subsidy on electricity bill and diesel;
- (b) if so, the amount of the subsidy given during the last three years, Statewise;
- (c) the criteria laid down for providing such subsidies; and
- (d) the number of farmers being benefited from subsidy in the country during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): State Governments provide subsidy on electricity charges for agricultural consumers. Retail prices of diesel are fixed by the Government on a level lower than its import parity level, thereby providing subsidy to consumers including farmers.

(b) to (d): According to Central Statistical Organisation, separate data of electricity subsidy attributable exclusively to agriculture sector is not maintained. Details regarding electricity subsidy are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
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Electricity	20967	29147	30712
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(Subsidy)

Financial assistance was provided to the State Governments/ UT Administrations who decided to introduce diesel subsidy for the farmers to enable them to provide supplementary irrigation through diesel pump-sets in drought and deficit rainfall affected areas to protect the standing crops during Kharif 2010, on the pattern of similar scheme implemented during Kharif 2009.

It has been decided that the State Governments/UT Administrations will implement the scheme with the Central Government share of subsidy limited to a maximum of Rs. 10/per litre of diesel or Rs.625/per hectare, subject to a maximum of 2 hectares per farmer irrespective of the size of holding.

The Governments of Bihar and Tamil Nadu submitted reimbursement claims during March 2010 for Rs.21.52 crore and Rs.1.43 crore, respectively and the Central Government has reimbursed the amounts due to them. Similarly, during 2010-11 an amount of Rs.4.21lakh was released to Jharkhand towards Centre's share of subsidy.