

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3116
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
AGRICULTURAL REFORMS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether food crisis appears to be the harbinger of crisis in the agriculture sector as a result of neglect of agriculture coupled with liberal economic reforms;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to bring about reforms in the agriculture sector; and
- (c) the system proposed to be evolved to provide food to the hungry in future in keeping with the increasing population of the country after taking stock of the declining production?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): For increasing food production in the country, the Government implements schemes, which envisages quantifiable increase in food production, productivity and farm income and reduction in yield gaps. During the XIth Plan, the Government also introduced Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and National Food Security Mission schemes to enhance investment in agricultural sector and achieve targeted production in rice, wheat & pulses. In 2010-11 and 2011-12, to give further fillip to agriculture production nine additional sub-schemes under RKVY have been launched:

- (i) Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India
- (ii) Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses Villages in Rainfed Areas
- (iii) Promotion of Oil Palm
- (iv) Initiative on Vegetable Clusters
- (v) Nutri-cereals
- (vi) National Mission for Protein Supplements
- (vii) Accelerated Fodder Development Programme
- (viii) Rainfed Area Development Programme
- (ix) Saffron Mission.

In addition to the above, Government has also taken many other initiatives for revitalization of the sector, which inter-alia include:

1. Strengthening of existing schemes such as National Horticulture Mission, Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and Micro Irrigation scheme during current Plan period.
2. Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers, involving relief waiver of Rs. 65318.33 crore.
3. Implementation of Rehabilitation Package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone districts in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.
4. Making available short term crop loans to farmers at 7 per cent interest with 3 per cent interest subvention for timely repayment thus making an effective interest rate of 4%.
5. Substantial increase of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops in recent years to make farming more remunerative. All the above initiatives have resulted in the desired outcomes as evidenced by the following:

Foodgrains production which was 208.60 million tonnes at the end of 10th Plan (2005-06) reached an all time high of 241.56 MT in the year 2010-11.

During the same period, pulses production increased from 13.3 MT to record production of 18.09 MT, an increase by 4.07 MT.

The oilseeds production during the same period increased from 27.98 MT to 31.10 MT, another record production.

The increased food production coupled with the public distribution system ensure food security of the country.