

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:204  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any schemes or programmes for extending the existing agricultural extension services with an appropriate mix of public and private funding and delivery mechanism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the likely impact of the said proposal on agricultural production and productivity; and
- (d) the rationale for opening up the agricultural extension programme to the private players and possible outcome for the larger agricultural productivity?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms' Scheme is currently being implemented in 604 districts of 28 States & 3 UTs of the country. In order to ensure promotion of multi-agency extension strategies, and to implement scheme activities in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode, a minimum of 10% of scheme allocation on recurring activities at district level through Non-Governmental Sector such as, NGOs, FOs, PRIs, Cooperatives, para extension workers, agripreneurs, input suppliers, corporate sector etc. The Non-Governmental implementing agencies are eligible for service charge up to a maximum of 10% of cost of extension activities (without staff cost) implemented through them. The States have been following the policy directives to varying extents and in different modes.

(c) & (d): Efforts of the private sector is likely to supplement the work being done by the Government extension machinery who have been disseminating correct information and appropriate technologies among the farmers. The Government of India has also been supporting a programme for training youth with background in agriculture for setting up Agri-Clinics and Agri-business centres. Extension activities through these trained persons and other PPP modes is ensuring better outreach of extension machinery.