

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4374
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
POULTRY DEVELOPMENT
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `Poultry Development` has been launched recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to launch a poultry venture capital fund;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said fund including the funds allocated for the purpose, benefits likely to accrue and time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to help the poultry industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. The Government has recently approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, `Poultry Development` from 2009-10 during XI Five Year Plan at a total outlay of Rs. 150 crore. The scheme has three components viz. `Assistance to State Poultry Farms`, (which is a continuing component) and two new components `Rural Backyard Poultry Development` and `Poultry Estates`.

(c)&(d): The Government is already implementing a Central Sector Scheme `Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund` and the administrative approval for `Poultry Venture Capital Fund` has already been issued separately allocating an amount of Rs. 10 crore for 2009-10. The scheme is aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship in various poultry activities. The scheme is being implemented through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Fifty percent of the approved loan for the bankable project is interest-free. Further, the interest component applicable for agriculture activities is being subsidised to the extent of 50% in cases of regular/timely repayment of loan by beneficiary.

(e): The Government has been addressing the interest of poultry sector through its various projects and policy decisions. Financial relief measures were provided to the poultry industry throughout the country in light of avian influenza outbreak in some areas of West Bengal resulting in reduced demand and prices of poultry products. Export of maize, which is an important poultry feed ingredient, was also banned for a few months in 2008 to increase the domestic availability. Measures have also been taken up by the Government to protect from various diseases. As a result of some of these measures, the poultry industry is now commanding remunerative prices for poultry products.