

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2381

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

AGRICULTURAL LANDHOLDINGS

Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma;Singh Shri Ravneet;Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram;Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average size of agricultural landholdings in the country is mostly small and marginal;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give special emphasis/focus to increase the productivity of small farm holdings in order to ensure food security for the growing population in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the incentives given to the farmers for the promotion of small scale farming during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to make small scale farming viable and to assist farmers to adopt technology suitable for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b) As per results (provisional) of latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, the number of marginal and small operational holdings taken together (holdings having operated area below 2.00 hectare) constituted 84.97 per cent of total number of holdings with 44.31 per cent of total operated area in the country. State-wise percentage of number and area of marginal and small operational holdings taken together is placed at Annexure.

(c) & (d) The Government provides financial incentives, grants, concessions to farmers, including small and marginal farmers, through various schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Revised Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Modified Agricultural Technology Management Agency Scheme, National Horticulture Mission etc. to increase production and productivity of various crops.

The actual expenditure (plan) of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during last three years and the current year is given below:

S.No. Year Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)

1. 2009-10 10870.15

2. 2010-11 17052.59

3. 2011-12 16558.14

4. 2012-13 15841.10

upto 28 February, 2013 (Provisional)

(e) The Government has taken several measures to make small land holdings viable and assist farmers to adopt suitable technologies. This include (i) promoting adoption of modern technologies and practices like multiple cropping, intercropping and integrated farming systems (ii) disseminating knowledge through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Kisan Melas, exhibitions and training programmes in different parts of the country to create awareness about improved agricultural technologies (iii) strengthening farm credit delivery system for providing credit at affordable rate of interest to support the resource requirements of the agricultural sector (iv) providing adequate support services to farmers etc.