

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:287

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various schemes run by the Government for the growth/development of agriculture sector and for the benefits of poor farmers in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has recently assessed the reasons for the slow growth of agriculture, marketing problems being faced by the farmers, non-availability of farm credit, etc. in the country;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring radical agricultural reforms to alleviate the difficulties faced by the farmers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved in bringing reforms in Indian agriculture to compete with other countries of the world?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 287 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

(a) to (e): Government implements several schemes for the development of the agriculture sector. The main schemes/programmes under implementation include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; National Food Security Mission; National Horticulture Mission; Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States; National Mission on Micro Irrigation; Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize; Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, etc.

The agriculture sector has witnessed a turnaround in recent years. The growth rate of agriculture which was stagnating at around 2.45% during 9th and 10th Plan periods increased to 3.64% during 11th Plan period and is targeted at 4% for 12th Plan period. The increase in growth has been possible due to several factors such as, improvement in terms of trade for agriculture; remunerative price for farm produce through increased MSPs, higher level of procurement and competitive markets; higher use of productivity enhancing inputs like fertilizer and quality seeds; increase in agriculture investments supported by public sector capital formation; and increase in supply of institutional credit to agriculture in addition to implementation of path breaking schemes like National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India and several other missions and programmes.

Several States have amended their legislations in consonance with the Model APMC Act in order to provide competitive alternative marketing channels to the farmers for sale of their produce, reduce intermediaries in the supply chain, and encourage investments in development of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure.

The total flow of institutional credit to the agriculture sector has increased from Rs.86,981 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.6,07,375 crore during 2012-13. The credit flow target for 2013-14 is set at Rs.7 lakh crore. Agriculture credit is available at the concessional rate of 7% per annum on which subvention @ 3% is available on timely repayment.

Various initiatives and reforms in the sector have resulted in record production of food-grains which is not only sufficient to meet domestic requirements but also provides huge surpluses for exports. India exported agricultural produce worth Rs.2.32 lakh crore during 2012-13 as against exports of Rs.0.28 lakh crore in 2000-01 and Rs.0.85 lakh crore in 2008-09. The growth in exports has been much larger than the growth in imports particularly during the last 10 years with a sizeable trade surplus which shows that agriculture sector in India is able to compete in the world market.