

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3229

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

AGRICULTURAL PROFESSION

Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers in certain parts of the country have declared crop holiday as agriculture has become a unremunerative profession;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the shifting of farmers from the farm sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): The State Government of Andhra Pradesh informed that the farmers in the Central Delta Region of Amalapuram Division of east Godavari district decided not to go for Kharif crop and declared crop holiday in 2011-12. The main demands of the farmers were to increase subsidies on agriculture inputs, better irrigation and drainage system, enhanced Minimum Support Price for premier rice varieties and streamlining of procurement and marketing operations.

(c): A high-level committee constituted by the State Government for identifying the circumstances that led to declaration of crop holiday by the farmers had recommended, inter alia, stable and liberalized export policy, construction of additional Godowns at Mandal level, creation of agro service centres in the next 3-4 years, establishment of holistic and trans-disciplinary mechanism at the National, State and District level to disseminate value added information in order to empower the farming community on a real-time basis. In addition, Government of India has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure and ensuring timely delivery of credit, technology and other inputs. Various Programmes/ Schemes for the development of agriculture sector including diversification to high yielding crops are implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. Further, Government fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various agricultural commodities with a view to ensure that farmers get remunerative returns for their produce.