

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1818  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009  
NATIONAL POLICY FOR FARMERS  
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to provide employment opportunities to the farmers in the light of the national policy for farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds allocated to the States in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): One of the major policy goals enunciated in the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 is to provide appropriate opportunities in adequate measure for non-farm employment for the farm households. Some of the initiatives indicated in the policy document towards this end are as follows:-

- i) Encouraging scientific fish rearing, harvesting and processing
- ii) Crop diversification in intensively cultivated mono-crop areas
- iii) Improvement in the outreach and efficiency of the rural banking system
- iv) Agro-processing and value-addition at the village level itself
- v) Curriculum reforms in agricultural/animal sciences universities
- vi) Some group/cooperative farming methods aimed at gaining efficiency and economies of scales by the small and marginal farmers
- vii) Vocational training to youth in different aspects of agriculture and allied activities
- viii) Development of floriculture, roots and tuber crops, aromatic and medicinal plants, bee-keeping and sericulture
- ix) Consortium approach involving different agencies for rural non-farm employment initiatives for farm households.

All the above initiatives are already being addressed by various schemes and programmes of the Central and State Governments. In order to give a boost and direction to these efforts and for realizing the provisions enunciated in the NPF 2007, a Plan of Action for operationalisation of the NPF 2007 has been drawn and circulated to all Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the State Governments for appropriate action. A regular monitoring mechanism has also been put in place to oversee the progress of implementation of NPF 2007.