

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4152  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009  
FARMERS INDEBTEDNESS  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented the recommendations made by the Radhakrishnan Expert Group on farmers' indebtedness and the Hanumantha Rao Committee on recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the recommendations made in the said report?

**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 (d): Based on the recommendations made by the Expert Group on Agriculture Indebtedness (Chairman: Prof. R. Radhakrishna), the period for implementation of the non-credit components of the Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra (Prime Minister's Relief Package) has been extended by two more years. Besides, the Government has already implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver & Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme, 2008 for providing debt waiver and debt relief to the farmers. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has initiated measures for implementation of the recommendations pertaining to them.

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan along with its fifth and final Report, also submitted a 'Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers' on 4.10.2006. Based on the 'Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the NCF and after consulting the States, the Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007. Many of the provisions contained in the NPF, 2007 are already under implementation by various Central Ministries and Departments and by the State Governments, through several on- going schemes/programmes. A n Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation finalized a Plan of Action for operationali- sation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October, 2008 to all the State Governments particularly with respect to the items falling within the purview of the State Governments and the Central Ministries/Departments concerned, for necessary action. A regular monitoring mechanism has also been put in place to oversee the progress of implementation of NPF 2007.