

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:743
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Nimmala Shri Kristappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had constituted a National Commission on Farmers to address the problems of the farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of the Commission and the follow-up action taken by the Government on the recommendations/suggestions by them along with the achievements made so far, in this regard;
- (c) whether the major issues which are affecting the development of the agriculture sector in the country have been included in the 12th Plan document;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan/schemes/programmes formulated by the Government and the funds earmarked for the development of agriculture sector during the said Plan period; and
- (e) the mechanism put in place to monitor the schemes/programmes under implementation for the development of the agriculture sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government of India constituted National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan on 18.11.2004.

The terms of reference and the composition of the Commission is at Annexure-I and II.

The National Commission on Farmers submitted five Reports to the Government over a period of time. In the fourth Report, the Commission submitted a Draft National Policy for Farmers incorporating the work and recommendations made by the Commission since its formation. The Commission discussed the Draft National Policy in State level consultations with farmers including women farmers and other stakeholders including NGOs, bankers, media and scientists. As a sequel to these consultations, the Commission revised and elaborated the Draft Policy and submitted the "Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers" alongwith its fifth and final report on 4.10.2006.

Based on the revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers and after consulting the States, the Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in the year 2007.

The NPF, 2007 aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers. Policy provisions in NPF, 2007, include, inter-alia, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; support services for women; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural bio-security system; use of Information and Communication Technology and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the country and establishing community Foodgrain banks; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

Many of the Scheme/Programmes being implemented by Central and State Governments are as per the provisions of NPF, 2007 which is an ongoing process.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): The following Missions/Schemes/ Programmes have been formulated by the Government during the 12th Plan Period :

Mission/Scheme Allocation
(Rs. in crores)

National Food 12350.00
Security
Mission

National 15974.00
Horticulture
Mission

National 3507.00
Mission on
Oilseeds & Oil
Palm

National 13034.00
Mission for
Sustainable
Agriculture
including Micro
Irrigation

National 11261.00
Mission on
Agriculture
Extension &
Technology

Integrated 7996.00
Scheme for
Farmers Income
Security

Integrated 1341.00
Scheme on
Agri-census
and Statistics

Integrated 5048.00
Scheme on
Agriculture
Marketing

Integrated 920.00
Scheme on
Agriculture
Cooperation

Rashtriya Krishi 63246.00
Vikas Yojana

Secretariat 69.00
Economic
Service

Total 134746.00

(e): Government has put in place appropriate monitoring mechanisms for implementation of various schemes/missions during 12th Plan period while finalizing the Operational Guidelines. A Web Based Monitoring Mechanism has been stipulated for monitoring

implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. In respect of remaining Missions/Schemes, the monitoring is done through visits of experts and officials to the implementing States.