

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3759
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN KERALA
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant special status to Kerala to increase agricultural production in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated for promotion of agriculture in Kerala during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for promoting agriculture and to improve the condition of farmers in Kerala?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): No, Madam.

(c) & (d): Agriculture is a State subject. Therefore, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector including welfare of farmers. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. To revitalize the agriculture sector and improve upon the condition of farming community on sustainable basis, Central Government has taken several steps such as, increasing public investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/ schemes for the development of agriculture sector are also being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. Focus is primarily on increasing of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages.

Other measures for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in institutional credit flow to agriculture sector, post-harvest loan for six months to eliminate distress sale of agricultural produce by farmers, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.

Details of funds allocated to Kerala for promotion of agriculture in Kerala under various schemes, during the last three years are Annexed.