

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2774
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
GROWTH RATE IN AGRICULTURE
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian economy has registered a healthy growth rate during the first quarter of the current fiscal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a decline in the agriculture growth rate;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve agriculture growth rate?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL)

(a) & (b) The Central Statistical Organisation, at factor cost, at constant prices in the first quarter (April-June) of the current year has estimated a 5.7 per cent growth rate compared with 5.3 per cent during comparable period of last year.

(c) to (e) The growth rate of agriculture and allied sector estimated at 1.7 per cent during the first quarter of the current year as compared with 2.7 per cent during comparable period of the previous year, relates to the pre-monsoon period which was adversely affected due to the continued moisture stress resulting from a poor monsoon during 2002. The bountiful monsoon during 2003 is expected to impact growth favourably in 2003-04. Some of the recent important measures relating to agriculture as proposed in Budget 2003-04 include setting up of a Task Force to recommend measures needed to be adopted for expanding the coverage of drip and sprinkler irrigation, introduction of a new Central Sector Scheme on high-tech horticulture and precision farming, lowering of rate of interest for agriculture loans etc.