

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:706  
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004  
DEVELOPMENT OF FARM SECTOR  
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) the details of the issues raised during the recent meeting of the Prime Minister with farm sector;
- (b) whether the Government propose to dismantle Public Distribution System to allow farmers to enter the market directly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to revitalize the farm sector;
- (e) whether some Indian and Multi-National Companies have shown interest for development of farm sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the interested parties?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a): The Prime Minister held a meeting with representatives of farmers and farmers organizations on 28th June 2004. Some of the issues/suggestions discussed, inter alia, included rural credit, availability of agricultural inputs, agricultural marketing, agricultural insurance, specific crop related issues, etc.
- (b)&(c): No Sir. There is no proposal at present to dismantle the Public Distribution system.
- (d): The steps taken/proposed to be taken to revitalize the farm sector, inter alia, include enhanced investment in rural infrastructure, increased flow of rural credit, accelerating completion of irrigation projects, insurance cover to farm sector, availability of inputs at reasonable prices, encouragement to R&D and application of frontier technology, improving agricultural product markets, diversification and development of agro-processing.
- (e)&(f): Prima facie no specific proposals are under consideration, however, public-private partnership is being encouraged for development of farm sector.