

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1617  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005  
ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR  
Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether during the Ninth Five Plan the Government had fixed the target of 4 percent annual growth rate in agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, whether this target has been achieved;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to create special fund for agricultural research for increasing the productivity in agriculture sector; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a): The Government had fixed the target of 3.9% annual growth rate in agriculture including allied sector in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).
- (b): No, Sir. According to the data released by Central Statistical Organisation the average annual growth rate in agriculture including allied sector during the Ninth Plan worked out to 2.1%.
- (c): Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production is heavily influenced by rainfall. During the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002), the growth rate in agriculture sector was negative in two years, namely, 1997-98 (-2.4%) and 2000-01 (-0.1%). The main reason for negative growth in 1997-98 was the sharp decline in rabi production of foodgrains and oilseeds. In 2000-01 also the shortfall in rabi production of foodgrains and oilseeds was quite sharp.
- (d): Yes, Sir. Agricultural Research has a vital role to play in the strategy for reviving and encouraging diversification. A Task Force headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended the creation of a National Fund for Strategic Agricultural research. Accordingly, in the Union Budget for 2005-06, an initial provision of Rs.50 crore has been kept for operationalising this fund.
- (e): Does not arise.