

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:811
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
DECLINING OF AGRICULTURAL GROWTH RATE
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agricultural growth rate registered a steep decline during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the factors responsible for a steep fall in agricultural growth rate;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated plans to increase the agricultural growth rate during the current fiscal year; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per data released by Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi the growth rate in agriculture increased by 6.8% in 2001-02. Though agricultural growth declined by 5.2% in 2002-03, it is estimated to have increased by 9.1% in 2003-04.

(c): The sharp decline by 5.2% in agriculture growth during 2002-03 was on account of the severe drought that affected several parts of the country, which suffered from deficient and scanty rainfall from southwest monsoon. The resulting decline in area and yield adversely affected agriculture production in the country.

(d) & (e): In order to increase agricultural growth rate, the Government has identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include doubling of rural credit in three years, market / price support to farmers for ensuring fair and remunerative prices, insurance of crops against production loss arising from natural calamities, creation of additional irrigation facilities and assistance to farmers under various agricultural, including horticultural, crop production programmes and market reforms.