

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3876
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE, FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set target for agriculture growth during 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made to achieve the target;
- (c) whether the Government has invited private players in developing the horticulture, fisheries and livestock sectors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has chalked out any plan in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Planning Commission in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan have set 4% as the target for agricultural growth during 2005-06. The Government have initiated various measures through a multi-pronged strategy to give a boost to the production and productivity in the agriculture sector. The strategies formulated by the Government involve making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic to achieve a higher growth target of 4 percent and include

- (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure,
- (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs,
- (iii) promoting farmer-friendly, demand-driven agriculture extension system,
- (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture,
- (v) strengthening infrastructure and supply chain,
- (vi) optimizing efficient utilization of available water resources through micro-irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/ rainfed farming system,
- (vii) reforming agricultural markets and widespread use of post-harvest technology,
- (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers such as crop insurance and
- (ix) providing financial support to encourage them to use tractors and power-driven equipments, plant protection equipments for improved efficiency and higher productivity.

(c)&(d): The Government is encouraging private partnership in the development of horticulture, fisheries and livestock sectors so as to induce large investments in various activities.

In the sub-sector of horticulture, the private investment has been encouraged in areas like production of planting material (nursery), vegetable seed production, seed infrastructure, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/ Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Bio-control Laboratories, plant health clinics, leaf/tissue culture laboratories, post-harvest management including establishment of marketing infrastructure for horticultural produce.

In the livestock sector, there is a provision for establishment of private Artificial Insemination (AI) Centres to increase the coverage of Artificial Insemination Programme.

In the fisheries sector, there is a provision to provide financial assistance to non-government organizations/ private players for the development of marketing infrastructure such as retail vending kiosks, aqua-shops, insulated/ refrigerated vehicles, mini-trucks, auto-

rickshaw with ice-box, motorcycles/ bicycle with ice-box, fish display cabinets, weighing scales, computer units and allied equipments.

(e) & (f): The Government have formulated following schemes for the development of horticulture, fisheries and livestock sectors

The National Horticulture Mission has been launched in May 2005, which aims at promoting research, production, post-harvest management, processing and marketing in an integrated manner.

In the fisheries sector, a centrally sponsored scheme viz. `Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations` has been launched mainly for development of marketing infrastructure.

In the livestock sector, a centrally sponsored scheme `National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding` is being implemented in 26 States and 2 UTs for the breeding of productive livestock through Artificial Insemination Centres.