

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:318
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the status of development activities in rural areas to work out appropriate strategies for accelerating growth in agriculture and related non-crop sector through comprehensive policy/measures/package;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the new agricultural initiatives for thrust areas, particularly for non- green/dry land farming?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 318 DUE FOR REPLY ON 13TH MARCH, 2006.

(a) to (c): The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan (2002-07) had provided a comprehensive review of the development activities in rural areas pertaining to agriculture and related sectors, and emphasized the need for reversing the deceleration in the agriculture sector. It has laid thrust on rejuvenating the support systems in extension, credit and delivery systems of inputs, improvement of irrigation/water management, participatory natural resource management, agricultural diversification, shift of land from cereals to non-cereals coupled with increased productivity in cereals, and shift to horticultural crops supported by adequate marketing infrastructure.

Initiatives have already been taken such as launch of National Horticulture Mission, undertaking activities with a mission approach for enhancing productivity and quality of cotton, oilseeds, pulses, and coarse grains. The other vital areas where policy initiatives have been taken include credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure and reforms and extension services.