

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3492
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the viability of agriculture has to be focused on raising productivity by stepping up public investment, adopting cost reducing technologies, removing restrictions on agricultural trade, marketing process within the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government for viability of Indian agriculture?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of irrigation expansion through Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, increased credit coverage by enhancing institutional credit flow with the reduced interest rate of 7 percent, crop diversification, dryland farming, marketing infrastructure, agricultural insurance against production loss, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities. The process of growth is strengthened through farm mechanization, Agri-clinics and agri-business centres.

Further, the schemes for rice, wheat and coarse cereals are under implementation to augment their production and productivity under macro-management mode of agriculture in which States have been given the flexibility to choose any scheme or its components according to their specific needs. These initiatives are expected to make Indian agriculture viable and achieve better growth performance both in cereal and non cereal crops.