

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:788
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
AGRICULTURAL GROWTH TARGET
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the comparative agricultural growth rates during 8th and 9th Plans;
- (b) whether the Government has fixed any target for agricultural growth during the Tenth Plan period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made thereunder during each of the last two years and the current year; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to achieve the target?

Answer

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

(a): Average annual growth rate of agriculture including allied sectors of forestry and logging and fishing, computed in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) during the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) was 4.7 percent, and during 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was 2.1 percent.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. A target of 4 percent growth rate for agriculture and allied sectors was set during 10th Five Year Plan period (2002-07). Details of achievement since 2002-03 are given below:

Trend of Growth in agriculture and Allied Sectors during First Four Years of 10th Plan Period

Year	Growth (percentage)
2002-03	-6.9
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.7
2005-06	3.9

(d): A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of irrigation 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.