

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3652

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006

SHARE OF AGRICULTURE IN PLANNED GROWTH

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to accord top priority to Agriculture Sector in the Eleventh Plan ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof indicating the targets fixed for Agriculture Growth ; and
- (c) The areas identified to give focused thrust to increase growth rate of Agriculture during the Eleventh Plan ?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) : The `Approach Paper` of the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) titled `Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth – An Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan` has accorded high priority to the agriculture sector and has accordingly targeted around 4% per annum growth rate for the sector in 11th Five Year Plan which is double of that likely to be achieved in the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c): Alongside addressing the demand side issues, the 11th Plan strategy to raise agricultural output is based on the following elements :-

Double the rate of growth of irrigated area;

Improve water management, rain water harvesting and watershed development;

Reclaim degraded land and focus on soil quality;

Bridge the knowledge gap through effective extension;

Diversify into high value outputs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs and spices, medicinal plants, bamboo, Bio-diesel etc., but with adequate measures to ensure food security ;

Promote animal husbandry and fishery;

Provide easy access to credit at affordable rates;

Improve the incentive structure and functioning of markets;

Refocus on land reforms issues.