

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3660
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
IMPROVEMENT IN AGRI ECONOMY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to implement new action plan to improve agri-economy in the country ;
- (b) If so, the objectives and details thereof; and
- (c) The time by which the new action plan is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) : The National Policy on Agriculture (2000) seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization. Over the next two decades, it aims to attain:

A growth rate in excess of 4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector ;

Growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conserves our soil, water and bio-diversity ;

Growth with equity, i.e., growth which is widespread across regions and farmers ;

Growth that is demand driven and caters to domestic markets and maximizes benefits from exports of agricultural products in the face of the challenges arising from economic liberalization and globalization ;

Growth that is sustainable technologically, environmentally and economically.

Accordingly, the Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector and improving the condition of farmers. The strategies formulated, inter alia, 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 activities;

(v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;

(vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation, watershed development projects and measures for water conservation for enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system;

(vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and

(viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.