

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:848
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the investment in agriculture and allied sectors, has come down from Rs.55,473 crores in 2001-02 to Rs.51,000 crores in 2006-07;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase public and private investment in agriculture sector; and
- (d) the manner in which Krishi Vigyan Kendras have helped increase the investment in agriculture sector?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : According to latest estimates released by Central Statistical Organisation, the investment in the agriculture and allied sectors, measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation at constant prices (1999-2000 prices), increased by about 15 percent from Rs. 55,806 crore during 2001-02 to Rs. 64,131 crore during 2005-06.

(c) : The Government of India have taken a series of initiatives to increase public and private investment in agriculture sector. These are as follows:

? Increase in public investment in sectors like irrigation, watershed development in rainfed areas, rural road connectivity, rural electrification.

? Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district.

? Agricultural diversification through horticulture and floriculture.

? Development/ strengthening of modern agricultural markets, market support systems, contract farming by attracting investment from private and corporate sectors.

? Reorientation of banks towards extending credit for crop loan to farmer households at concessional rate of interest.

? Revitalization of Agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.

(d) : The investment in agriculture through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has received priority attention with the provision of Rs. 5368 crore during the Tenth Plan for agriculture research and education, which includes Rs. 500 crore for new KVKs for transfer of technology to the farmers. Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district is made more farmer friendly by way of autonomous institutional arrangements for technological dissemination through 'Agricultural Technology Management Agency' (ATMA) at district level.