

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5460
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to review and revise the agricultural policy, to remove the heavy bias in the policy in favour of foodgrains, which has worked in favour of prosperous farmers;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far;
- (c) the broad features of the new or contemplated policy; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to implementation this policy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) to (d) The existing National Agriculture Policy seeks to promote technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading, and socially, acceptable use of country's natural resources-land, water and genetic endowment to promote sustainable development of agriculture. The Policy further seeks to raise the productivity and production of crops to meet the increasing demand for food generated by unabated demographic pressures and raw materials for expanding agro-based industries. However, it calls for adoption of regionally differentiated strategy taking into account the agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions to realize the full growth potential of every region. It further lays major emphasis on the development of rainfed and irrigated horticulture, floriculture, roots and tubers, plantation crops, aromatic and medicinal plants, bee-keeping and sericulture for augmenting food supply.

In line with the objectives of the Policy, of the Government has taken steps to promote diversification from traditional food crops to oilseeds, pulses etc. There is no bias in favour of prosperous farmers.