

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2084

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007

INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the public investment in agriculture enabling the States to overcome problems in the farm sector through localized plan as reported in the Times of India dated May 23, 2007;
- (b) if so, the extent to which these plans will enhance the agriculture production;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase public investment in agriculture during Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): The news item titled 'PM promises to increase investment in agri sector' in Times of India, dated 23rd May, 2007 is a precursor to the 53rd Resolution of the National Development Council (NDC) meeting held on 29th May, 2007. As per the Resolution, the State Governments are to prepare District and State Agricultural Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector. In pursuance of the Resolution, the Government of India has recently approved two schemes for enhancement of foodgrains productivity and production and for improving overall growth of agriculture. These are: i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with an outlay of Rs.4882.48 crore, and ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) with an outlay of Rs.25000 crore, for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development. It is envisaged that production of rice will enhance by 10 million tonne, wheat by 8 million tonne and pulses by 2 million tonnes under the Mission.

The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) released in November, 2006 envisages that overall agricultural investment would need to be about 16 per cent of agricultural GDP, with public investment contributing 4 to 5 per cent during the Eleventh Plan. Further, the Eleventh Plan envisages an agricultural growth target of around 4 % per annum.