

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2815
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
AGRICULTURAL GROWTH RATE
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare any action plan to accelerate the agricultural growth rate in Eastern and North Eastern regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position of agricultural growth rate in Eastern and North Eastern regions of the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 emphasized to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture in the country including Eastern and North Eastern regions. The strategy involves, inter alia, the following crucial elements:

- # State Governments are to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector.
- # Introduction of a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- # Provision of additional resources for irrigation.
- # Strategic focus on the national agricultural research effort.
- # New initiatives for skill development for the farming community.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes for enhancement of foodgrains productivity and production and for improving overall growth of agriculture in the country. These are : i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses, and ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development.

(c): According to data compiled by Central Statistical Organisation, the growth rate in agriculture at constant (1999-2000) prices in the Eastern and North Eastern regions of the country for the latest available years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given below:

Growth Rate in Agriculture at constant (1999-2000) prices
(% growth over previous year)
S.No. State/UT 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06

1. Arunachal Pradesh	6.68	-3.48	1.97
2. Assam	1.54	2.57	7.56
3. Bihar	-18.23	14.90	-12.09
4. Jharkhand	2.27	18.59	3.60
5. Manipur	16.22	10.82	2.26
6. Meghalaya	2.11	1.36	7.80
7 Mizoram	-1.66	4.17	N.A.
8. Nagaland	10.08	N.A.	N.A.
9. Orissa	27.16	3.98	N.A.
10. Sikkim	8.23	5.49	5.21
11. West Bengal	3.26	0.95	1.72

Source : Central Statistical Organisation

N.A. : Not Available

Data for Tripura are not available.