

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3727
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
FARMERS BELOW BPL
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income of the farmers who are living below the poverty line, and how it compares with the per capita income of the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ameliorate the pitiable plight of these poorest of the poor farmers?

Answer

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

(a): According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) 59th Round Survey on `Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers` conducted in January – December 2003, (Report No. 497 (59/33)5) the average monthly income from wages, farm business and non-farm business per farmer household is Rs. 2115 per month at all-India level. The average per capita income in the country, measured in terms of Net National Product at factor cost as published by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is Rs. 20,936 annually during the year 2003-04 (or, Rs.1745 per month).

(b): The Government has taken a number of initiatives to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers including small and marginal farmers. These, inter-alia, include the announcement of a credit policy in the year 2004 to double the flow of credit to the agriculture sector in three years. From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are being provided crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh at 7 percent rate of interest. Other initiatives taken by Government include expanding the area under irrigation, improved water management with watershed development and rain harvesting and establishment of National Rain-fed Area Authority.